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UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS

The deadly failures in India's urban infrastructure

Why Yuvraj Mehta's death was not an accident

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LEGACY CONTINUES

Tarique Rahman takes oath as Bangladesh PM

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Indo-French ties a force for stability in the world, says PM

Vinaya Deshpande
MUMBAI

PM Narendra Modi with French President Emmanuel Macron in Mumbai on Tuesday. AFP

India and France elevated their relationship to a 'special global strategic partnership' on Tuesday when Prime Minister Narendra Modi met French President Emmanuel Macron.

The meeting also saw the amendment of the protocol on Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, establishment of an annual Foreign Ministers' Dialogue to review the Horizon 2047 Roadmap, and an agreement on reciprocal deployment of armed forces. At a time of global uncertainty, the India-French partnership is a force for stability, Mr. Modi said.

The bilateral talks between Mr. Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron in Mumbai resulted in a wide-ranging agreement covering health, critical minerals, defence, science and technology, renewable energy, and skilling.

With Mr. Macron at his side during a joint press conference at Lok Bhavan, the Prime Minister was expansive in his description of bilateral ties. "The India-France partnership knows no boundaries. It can reach from deep oceans to the tallest mountains," he said. Mr. Macron also highlighted the unique nature of the relationship, based on common principles such as a shared agreement on the rule of law and a world order without hegemony.

"We will find a new way which is against hegemony. We want to walk together. We want to give a model to the world about how to work together. ," he said. He emphasised the strategic partnership between the two countries in multiple sectors including defence, science and technology, nuclear power, and high speed rail networks.

During his first visit to Mumbai and fourth trip to India, Mr. Macron started the day with a jog along Marine Drive, south Mumbai's long coastal promenade, surprising residents.

CONTINUED ON
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RELATED REPORTS ON
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Political leaders, officials must foster fraternity: SC

Top court takes note of statements that 'stigmatise' entire communities, legitimise 'discriminatory governance'; it emphasises need for restraint in public comments by constitutional functionaries

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Political leaders must foster fraternity and high public office-holders should live up to the ideals of the Constitution, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday. The court was hearing a petition highlighting instances of Chief Ministers, senior bureaucrats, and police officers making public statements that stigmatise entire communities, legitimise discriminatory governance, and erode public confidence in the state's commitment to equal citizenship.

"We would like to impress upon all political parties to follow the principles of constitutional morality, values, mutual respect, and self-respect. This is a more than 75-year-old mature democracy; we do not expect people to behave like this," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading a three-judge Bench, observed orally.

> There is a need to restrain discriminatory and communally divisive public speeches from all sides
>
> **B.V. NAGARATHNA**
> Supreme Court Judge

> We would like to impress upon all political parties to follow the principles of constitutional morality
>
> **SURYA KANT**
> Chief Justice of India

Justice B.V. Nagarathna advocated the need to "restrain" discriminatory and communally divisive public speeches "from all sides".

"Political leaders must ultimately foster fraternity in the country," Justice Nagarathna remarked. However, she pointed out that the origin of speech was thought. "How can we control thought?" the judge asked.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal and advocate Fuzail Ahmad Ayyubi, appearing for petitioner-activist Roop Rekha Verma, said the court could certainly control the "consequences of thought" by laying down guidelines to govern public speech by constitutional functionaries, so as to ensure fidelity to constitutional morality, without imposing prior restraint or censorship. "We have to do something now," Mr. Sibal urged the court.

The court said it was keen to lay down guidelines but noted that the petition seemed to name personalities only from a particular political party. The Bench indicated that the court did not want to enter the political thicket, following which Mr. Sibal sought two weeks to modify the petition.

CONTINUED ON
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Tentative SSLC, II PUC result dates announced

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

For the first time, the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has announced the tentative result dates for both SSLC and II PUC exam-1 in Karnataka even before the commencement of exams.

As per the schedule, the II PUC results are likely to be announced on April 7 and SSLC on April 24.

The KSEAB has also announced the schedule for the annual exam-2.

The annual exam-2 for II PUC will be held between April 25 to May 9, and SSLC from May 18 to May 25.

The II PUC annual exam-1 will be held across Karnataka from February 28, while SSLC exam-1 will be held from March 18.

Helpline

School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa, in a press conference on Tuesday, also announced that the KSEAB has set up a helpline to assist students experiencing exam-related stress. Students can contact 080-23310075/76 for assistance.

FULL REPORT ON
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OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 17

Clinical City has the wherewithal to rock Arsenal's aspirations

Heading into the final third of the Premier League season, Arteta's men are perched at the top with 57 points from 26 games, four points more than the second-placed Manchester outfit; Guardiola & Co.'s killer instinct will be a factor as the campaign reaches its climax; the Gunners have a squad that can tackle the unforgiving schedule

S. Shrivathsan

Three shrewd tacticians from the Iberian Peninsula, but only one can get his hands on the coveted English top-flight trophy.

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta is on a mission to make the seemingly impossible possible. Three consecutive runner-up finishes in the Premier League, including two near misses, must have given him many sleepless nights. And come the culmination of the 2025-26 season, he simply would not be satisfied with anything other than the top prize.

Challenging him again for the prestigious silverware is an ever-hungry Pep Guardiola, who is experiencing a rare lull given the lofty standards he has set for himself at Manchester City.

Guardiola, who was Arteta's "master" during the latter's spell as an assistant coach at City, is now battling to prevent his once apprentice from "mastering" the league.

Also in the equation, as a dark horse, is Unai Emery. His much-improved Aston Villa side has been quietly punching above its weight despite not having the riches of the self-proclaimed 'Big Six' clubs. While Villa cannot be discounted in the home stretch, Arsenal and City are expected to make it a two-horse race when the campaign reaches its climax.

Little room for slip-ups

Heading into the final third of the season, Arsenal is perched at the top with 57 points from 26 matches, four points more than the second-placed City. But the Londoners would be well aware that there is little room for slip-ups after the recent run of events.

At one point during City's visit to Anfield, Liverpool provided an indirect 'assist' to Arsenal for extending the cushion to nine points. But City being City made a comeback of epic proportions to reduce the deficit to six points. They later cheered when Arteta's men were stung by the 'bees' of Brentford in the 1-1 stalemate.

But the Arsenal gaffer, overcoming bumps in the road, is focused on "unlocking the first big trophy" of his reign. "It is psychologically important to do it. We will then have the belief that we can do it [in the future]. To achieve it [win big trophies], the key thing is to master it. Now we are going to do it," Arteta told *TNTSports* a few months ago.

The 43-year-old truly understands the importance of having "winners" in the squad and the big roles they have to play in the closely contested duel. After all, Arsenal is enduring a five-year trophy drought, having last gone the distance in the FA Cup in 2020. When it comes to the domestic league, the wait has extended beyond two decades, with 2004's 'golden' champions still being a point of reference in discussions.

City, meanwhile, is led by a serial winner in Guardiola – a manager who clinches trophies for fun – and has a playing contingent packed with title victors. However, the squad that is undergoing transition is a work in refinement; City teams of the past would have already punished Arsenal for its blips and occupied the top spot on the table.

Squad depth a key factor

While possessing the ability to deal with crests and troughs is utterly important in a marathon like the title race, another key ingredient for success is squad depth. Having plenty of options to choose from is a boon when games come thick and fast.

In that sense, City has a group of players who are blessed with sheer quality, to the extent that it can field two separate starting XIs in back-to-back matches if needed.

For instance, take a look at the goalkeeping department. In the summer transfer window, City was successful in its pursuit of James Trafford, a young shotstopper with immense potential. But when Paris Saint Germain's Gianluigi Donnarumma became available in the market, the Manchester side did not think twice to purchase him and make him the No. 1 between the sticks. As a result, Trafford, a former City academy graduate, has had to become the Italian custodian's understudy and bide his time.

Donnarumma has already proved his worth with match-affecting actions, none more so than the acrobatic save he pulled off in the fag end of the contest against Liverpool. Just when Guardiola had his head in hands after Alexis Mac Allister's strike took a deflection in its journey to the top-left corner, Donnarumma used his big frame to preserve City's lead.

Likewise, the eight-time PL winner bolstered its backline with the scalp of Marc Guehi from Crystal Palace. A move was made in double-quick time after it became apparent that the versatile Josko Gvardiol, who can operate both as a central defender and left-back, would likely miss the final laps of the campaign.

Guehi has taken to City like a fish to water and in the company of Ruben Dias and Abdukodir Khusanov, will be vital at the heart of the defence. The addition of Antoine Semenyo to an already potent attack, led by 'goal machine' Erling Haaland, is a statement in itself while Nico Gonzalez has shown he can efficiently fill in for Rodri.

Guardiola believes that his team will be active in the championship race right till the end if most of his players remain injury-free. "We can be there [fighting for the title] if the players stay fit. When we play every three or four days with only a few players, we cannot compete," Guardiola said, adding that he would prefer to be leading rather than chasing.

As for Arteta's side, it finally has a squad that can tackle the unforgiving schedule, thanks to a host of summer signings [Kepa Arrizabalaga, Eberechi Eze, Viktor Gyokeres, Piero Hincapie (on loan), Noni Madueke, Cristhian Mosquera, Christian Norgaard and Martin Zubimendi].

"We have gone to another level this season. Last season, we had only 13 or 14 outfield players competing for positions in the XI, but it was not enough. This season, we increased the number and certainly the quality. We did that to improve the versatility of the team. We added pieces that we did not have, players who can complement each other in a really powerful way. They have adapted really well," Arteta said.

What lies ahead

Both teams are well equipped to face what is ahead of them. In terms of difficulty, they have fairly similar run-ins – City and Arsenal will cross swords at the Etihad Stadium in April in a potential title-deciding clash besides taking on Chelsea once each.

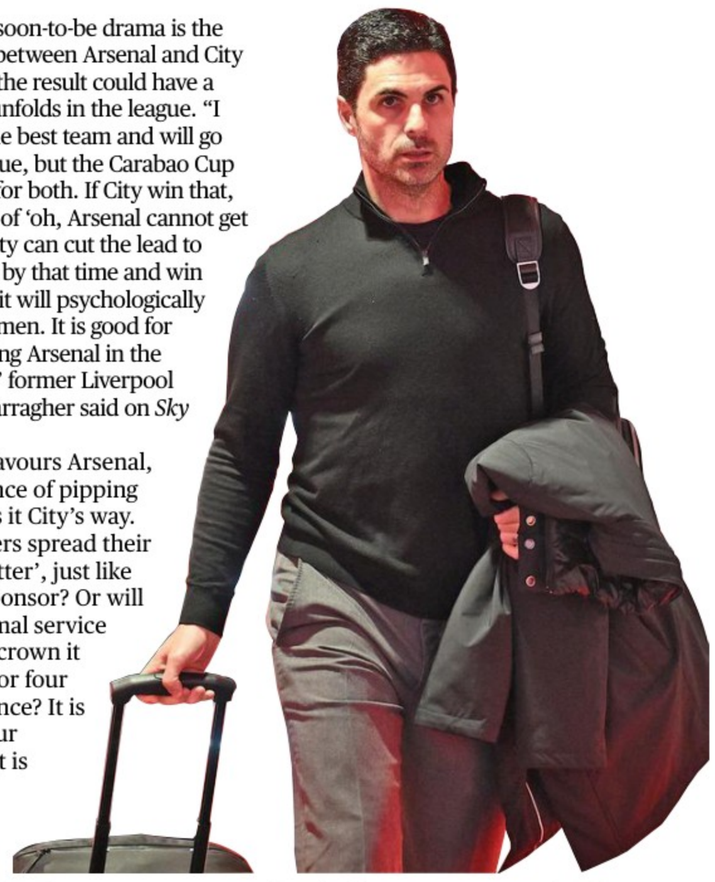
London derby rival Tottenham Hotspur, currently in turmoil, will be eager to bounce back and rock Arsenal's title aspirations, in manager Igor Tudor's first game in-charge. With City set to finish its domestic season with a home encounter against Villa, it would hope for an encore; on the final matchday four years ago, City, in commentator Peter Drury's words, miraculously turned "catastrophe into cacophonic joy" with a stellar late surge.

Amidst all this soon-to-be drama is the League Cup final between Arsenal and City next month. And the result could have a bearing on what unfolds in the league. "I think Arsenal is the best team and will go on to win the league, but the Carabao Cup final will be huge for both. If City win that, there will be talks of 'oh, Arsenal cannot get over the line.' If City can cut the lead to one or two points by that time and win the Carabao Cup, it will psychologically be huge for Pep's men. It is good for City that it is playing Arsenal in the League Cup final," former Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher said on *Sky Sports*.

Overall form favours Arsenal, but past experience of pipping Arteta's crew tilts it City's way. Will the Londoners spread their wings and 'fly better', just like the club's lead sponsor? Or will City resume normal service by regaining the crown it once held on to for four years on the bounce? It is time to fasten your seatbelts for what is expected to be a thrilling finale.

THE GIST

- Guardiola, who was Arteta's "master" during the latter's spell as an assistant coach at City, is now battling to prevent his once apprentice from "mastering" the league
- Overall form favours leader Arsenal, but past experience of pipping the Gunners tilts it City's way
- Also in the equation, as a dark horse, is Aston Villa, which has been quietly punching above its weight despite not having the riches of the self-proclaimed 'Big Six' clubs



Retired BMTC employee killed over property row, son arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 70-year-old retired employee of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), who was assaulted allegedly by his son over a property dispute in Indiranagar on Saturday, died on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Munikrishnappa. He reportedly had properties worth several crores and had frequent disputes with his children over the distribution of assets.

An initial probe revealed that Munikrishnappa had executed a will transferring some properties to his grandchildren, which is suspected to have intensified tensions within the family.

On Saturday night, when Munikrishnappa was walking his dog, his son, Mohan Kumar, allegedly engaged in a violent confrontation. The accused is said to have attacked his father with a hockey stick and an iron rod, causing grievous injuries. Munikrishnappa reportedly collapsed due to heavy bleeding. Residents rushed him to a nearby private hospital, where he was admitted to the intensive care unit, where he succumbed to injuries.

East Division Deputy Commissioner of Police Vikram Amte said a complaint by Divya – one of the daughters-in-law of the deceased – stated that Munikrishnappa had been assaulted while he was out walking his dog.

Police formed two special teams to probe the case and have arrested Mohan Kumar in connection with the incident. The police are also probing the role of other children in the murder.

Photographer held for house break-in, valuables seized

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The accused confessed that he noticed the key kept in the shoe rack and used it to unlock the door

The Whitefield police have arrested a 42-year-old photographer for house break-in theft in Bengaluru. They recovered 348 gm of stolen gold ornaments worth ₹55 lakh from him.

According to police, the complainant, a resident of Nagondanahalli within Whitefield police limits, had stepped out of the house on February 11 after locking the door and leaving the key in a shoe rack outside the house.

Upon returning home in the evening, the family found the door open and discovered that gold ornaments weighing 348 gm were missing from a cupboard.

Based on the complaint, a case of house break-in and theft was registered at Whitefield police station. During the probe, police traced and detained a suspect near Varthur Kodi on February 13. The accused was identified as Kiran, a photographer by profession. During interrogation, Kiran reportedly confessed that he had gone to the building in search of a house for rent. He noticed the key kept in the shoe rack and used it to unlock the door. He entered the house and took the valuables.

The police said he was in the process of disposing of the stolen ornaments when he was tracked down through CCTV camera footage.

Acting on his information, police recovered the entire 348 gm of gold ornaments from his residence. The accused was produced before a jurisdictional court on February 14, and remanded in judicial custody.

City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh advised residents not to leave house keys in shoe racks or window ledges, warning that such practices render homes vulnerable to theft.

Armed men posing as police loot cash, gold from realtor's house

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two armed men posing as policemen barged into the house of a realtor and allegedly looted ₹20 lakh in cash and nearly half a kg of gold ornaments in daylight at BEL Layout of Byadarahalli Police Station on Monday. The incident occurred when 53-year-old Hombale Gowda was at home with his wife, Mangalamma and, their two-and-a-half-year-old grandson.

According to the complaint, two men arrived at their home claiming to be policemen from Yelahanka. One of them was dressed in a sub-inspector's uniform and carried a diary, while the other carried a bag resembling that used by crime branch personnel. Soon after gaining entry, they allegedly brandished a gun and a knife and threatened the couple.

The accused locked Mr. Gowda inside the house and tied both him and his wife. They then entered the bedroom and decamped with ₹20 lakh in cash and around half a kg of gold jewellery.

Mr. Gowda pleaded with the accused to spare his wife's *mangalya*, and the robbers reportedly left it behind. Before fleeing, they snatched the victims' mobile phones and took away the CCTV DVR from the house to prevent identification. Mr. Gowda managed to escape and alerted the neighbours and the police.

A case has been registered at Byadarahalli Police Station.

Metro Railway, Kolkata

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Signal, Metro Railway, Kolkata for & on behalf of The President of India invites e-Tenders against Open Tender due to open on 12.03.2026 at 15:00 hrs. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of Work:** Signaling work in connection with engineering work "Rehabilitation of KKVS Station" along with signaling work in connection with "Redevelopment of Kalighat Metro Station". **Tender Value:** Rs. 35,78,688.34. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 71,600/- **Completion Period:** 12 Months. The tender can be viewed at website **https://www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate on e-Tendering. All relevant papers must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-Tender.

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M: 8355833842; Email: ubin0933848@unionbankofindia.bank

DEMAND NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SEC.13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT

Borrower: 1. (a) Mrs. KAMALAMMA W/o Papanna; **(b) Mr. KUMAR** S/o Papanna; **(c) Mr. MANJUNATHA P** S/o Papanna. **All are residing at:** #71, 1st Cross, 2nd Main, Papanna House, Hosakerehalli, Rajarajeshwari Nagara, Bangalore South, Bangalore - 560098

Notice under section 13(2) read with Section 13(3) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

You the addressee No. 1 herein have availed the following credit facilities from our **Bangalore Chandra Layout Branch (33842)** and failed to pay the dues/ instalment/ interest/ operate the accounts satisfactorily and hence, in terms of the RBI guidelines as to the income Recognition and prudential norms, your account/s has/have been classified as Non-performing Asset as on 29/01/2026 As on 29/01/2026, a sum of Rs.15,27,136.80 (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand One Hundred and Thirty Six and Eighty Paise Only) is outstanding in your account.

The particulars of amount due to the Bank from No. 1 of your in respect of the aforesaid account/s are as under:

Type of Facility / Account Number	Loan Sanctioned Amount	Outstanding amount as on 29/01/2026	Interest (Dummy + URI)	Cost / Charges incurred by Bank	Total dues (in Rs.)
Home Loan 563406650000059	20,00,000.00	14,96,453.80	30,683.00	0.00	15,27,136.80
Total Dues					**15,27,136.80**

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DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURED ASSET/s:

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing site No. 71, Khata No. 59/10, situated at Hosakerehalli, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West: Northern side 32 feet and Southern side 37 feet and North to South: 30 feet in all 1035 Sq. feet along with building constructed thereon and bounded on the: **East by:** 20 feet Road; **West by:** Public Property; **North by:** Site No. 61; **South by:** 25 feet Road.

Therefore you are hereby called upon in terms of Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, to pay a sum of **Rs.15,27,136.80 (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand One Hundred and Thirty Six and Eighty Paise Only)** together with further interest and charges at the contractual rate as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you and discharge the liabilities in full within **60 days** from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which, we shall be constrained to enforce the aforesaid securities by exercising any or all of the rights given under the said Act.

As per section 13(13) of the Act, on receipt of this notice you are restrained prevented from disposing of or dealing with the above securities without the consent of the bank.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section(8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 17.02.2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bangalore **Union Bank of India**

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public are hereby informed that, our client Mr.Rupal Sanjay Chhatbar, Residing at:Flat No.202, Milan Mandir Apts., Ramchandra Lane, Near Witty School Malad West, Mumbai, has lost original documents viz., 1) Allotment Letter dated 14-08-1961, 2) Possession Certificate dated 09-01-1963, 3) Agreement for sale dated 29-04-1962, All above are document issued by City Improvement Trust Board, registered as document No.3222/1962-63, in respect of immovable residential property bearing Site No.28, situated at Industrial Suburb, Rajajinagara Extension, Bengaluru, while taking Xerox copy of the same at M.G.Road, Bengaluru. Our client had lodged an online police complaint on 17-02-2026, lost report No.2067565/2026. If anybody found the said document please contact this Nos. 9844155041 and 8080725244.

V.S.Rai & Associates, LAW FIRM
23, "Venkatadri", 2nd Floor, Opp.Corporation School, SR Nagar, Bangalore - 560 027.
Mob:9844155041,Off:080-22223949.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our clients **Mr.Sivanandan S S/o Mr.Sankarappa and his wife Smt.Hemalatha Sivanandan** are intending to purchase the schedule property from **Mr.Nischal.R S/o Sri.L.Ravi Kumar** Rept. By GPA holder **Mr.Ravi Kumar L S/o Late. Lakshminarayana K.H** ; person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the Property Residential **Site No.36,** comes under Property Nos-43/2 & 43/4, Marenahalli Village Panchayath Khata No.690/650/36, Situated at: **CHAGALATTI Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** measuring East to West: **50-0 feet,** North to South: **30-0 feet,** in all total **1500 Sq. ft**, and bounded on: **EAST BY : Road, WEST BY : Site No.23, NORTH BY : Private Property, SOUTH BY : Site No. 35.**

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 9845846428, 9108784843
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, the under signed bring to the notice of the general public that my clients, **Sri. Periyasamy Mayilvaganan S/o Ramasamy Periyasamy, Smt. Kavitha Mayilvaganan W/o Periyasamy Mayilvaganan and Sri. Mayilvaganan Retesh S/o Periyasamy Mayilvaganan** all are residing at #14 & 15, Krishnaraju Layout, Bilekahalli, Bangalore-560076, are intent to purchase land bearing Sy. Nos.59/1, measuring 0.24.00 Guntas, Sy. No.59/6, measuring 0.04.08 Guntas, Sy. No.59/7, measuring 0.03.00 Guntas, Sy. No.59/8, measuring 0.03.08 Guntas, Sy. No.59/10, measuring 0.02.00 Guntas, Sy. No.59/11, measuring 0.04.00 Guntas, Sy. No.59/12, measuring 1 Acre 03 Guntas and Sy. No.59/14, measuring 0.06.08 Guntas, all properties are situated at **Mantapa Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District,** from Smt. Leela.M @ Neelamma W/o Late G.N.Ananda, residing at #81, Suvarna Nilaya, Gottigere, Bangalore - 560083, If anybody having any right, title, interest, much less possession over the above said properties, in anybody having any right, title, interest possession over the above said properties please contact the under signed below.

D.P.Sampath
Advocate.
No.5, Yellappa building, Near Court Compound, Attibele Road, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District,
M : 9448329562, 9686899234

IN THE COURT OF THE XXXVIII ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BANGALORE
O.S NO. 4241/2025 (CCH-39)

Plaintiff : Infiniti Research Marketing Solutions India Private Limited, A company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 Having its registered office at:Cessna Business Park, Embassy Signet, 1st Floor, Kadubeesanahalli, Bangalore-560103, Represented by its Authorised Representative: Mr. Shitikantha Chand **-V/s-**

Defendants: 1. Mr. Faizan Akthar
2. Beige Market Intelligence LLP
3. Ms. Falak Erfan Randerian
4. Ms. Shahnaz Akhtar
5. Mr. Imran Mushtaq

SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF THE CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE, 1908

To : 1.Mr. Faizan Akhtar, S/o Mr. Shad Akther, Aged about 37 years, Residing at No 201, Sravanthi Classic, 4th A Main, 6th Cross, NS Palya, BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore 560076.

2. Beige Market Intelligence LLP, A Limited Liability Partnership Having its registered office at #575, 2nd Main, Off 7th Cross, MICO Layout, BTM Layout 2nd Stage, Bangalore- 560076. Represented by its Designated Partners

3. Ms. Falak Erfan Randerian, W/o Faizan Akhtar, Aged about 37 years, The designated partner of Defendant No. 2 Residing at No 201, Sravanthi Classic, 4th A Main, 6th Cross, NS Palya, BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore 560076

4. Ms. Shahnaz Akhtar, D/o Mohammed Omerdaraz, Aged about 60 years, The designated partner of Defendant No. 2 Residing at No 201, Sravanthi Classic, 4th A Main, 6th Cross, NS Palya, BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore 560076

5. Mr. Imran Mushtaq, Aged about 32 years, S/o Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Mir Residing at Building No. 960, F1, 21st Cross, 9th Main, HSR Sector 7, Bangalore-560102.

Whereas the above named plaintiff instituted a suit against you seeking permanent injunction restraining you from divulging the confidential and proprietary information of the plaintiff, permanent injunction restraining you from soliciting employees and clients of the plaintiff, permanent injunction restraining you from publishing or selling reports prepared on the basis of confidential information extracted from the plaintiff, direction ordering take down of all reports prepared on the basis of the plaintiff's proprietary information from the defendant's website, return of confidential information, production of accounts, payment of losses and damages and other consequent reliefs.

You are hereby summoned to appear before this Court **on 10.03.2026 at 11:00 AM** in person or through an advocate/ pleader to answer the questions to the same, failing which the suit will be heard and determined ex-parte.

Given under my hand & seal of the court, this 9th day of February 2026.

By Order of the Court, Asst. Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

Sharan A. Kukreja,
Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas,
3rd Floor, Prestige Falcon Tower, 19, Brunton Road, Bangalore 560025.

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WhatsApp- 8431414491 165 Selections till date

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RANGANATH CHANDRA REDDY, R/at No. 155, Sorahunase Varthur, Bangalore 87 have changed my name from C RANGANATH, RANGANATH C to RANGANATH CHANDRA REDDY for all my future purposes through affidavit dated 16-02-2026 sworn before notary B.Seshagiri.

I, Udaykumar Ramaling Betgar R/o. No. 104, Bildenganga Apts., 4th Cross, Kasutri Nagar, Bengaluru-43, have Changed the Name of my Wife from Rajashree Uday Betgar to Rajashree Udaykumar Betgar (DOB 21-07-1969) vide affidavit dated 12/02/2026 before Chief Judicial Magistrate Bengaluru.

I, MARUTHI Naik, residing at #10 BHCS Layout Virat Nagar Bommanahalli Bengaluru 560068 have changed my minor son's name from Poojith to Poojith Maruthi Naik vide affidavit dated 16-02-2026 before notary K.C. Shashikala, Bangalore.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RANVEER Sabhani S/o. Rajan Bhagwandas Sabhani resident of T2-33B, SNN Clermont 54, Outer Ring Road, Jogappa Layout, Nagavara, Bengaluru - 560 054 changed my name to Ranveer Rajan Sabhani vide Affidavit Dated 16-02-2026 Before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bangalore

I, ASLAM Sher Khan, R/o Narsimha Pet, Ward No 24, Chintamani, Chikkaballapur District-563125 have changed my name to Aslam Shair Khan vide affidavit dt: 17.02.2026 sworn before Notary Ramachandrappa.C, B'luru

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE SUBORDINATE JUGE AT TIRUTTANI
I.A. No. 1 of 2023 in U/N A.S. No.of 2022 in O.S. No. 20 of 2008
Saraswathy & 3 others
..Appellants / Defendants 1 to 4
- Vs-
Sarojammal & 10 Others
... Respondents / Defendants 5 to 11

To, **NOTICE**
R8. Magesh, Son of Munirathana Reddy, Hindu, aged about 63 years.
R9. Latha, D/o. Munirathana Reddy, Hindu, aged about 59 years.
R10. Babu, Son of Munirathana Reddy, Hindu, aged about 57 years.
are residing at Mysore Road, Bangalore, within the jurisdiction of Bangalore City Civil Court.

The Hon'ble Subordinate Court, Tiruttani was pleased to order Notice by Substituted service in the above matter. The above I.A No.1 of 2023 and Un.No.AS. /2022 is posted to 05.03.2026 at about 10.30 AM. You may either appear in person on through your advocate on the said date and time before the Hon'ble subordinate court Tiruttani or state your objection. If any in default of your appearance so the matter will be decided exparte.

R.SRINIVASAN, B.COM., B.L.,
Advocate for Petitioner/Appellant
No.2, Angalamman Koil Street,
Tiruttani - 631209, Ct: 9443204914.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF SH. RAGHUBIR SINGH, LD. DISTRICT JUDGE (COMMERCIAL COURT-03), WEST DISTRICT, DELHI, ROOM NO. 203, EXTENSION BLOCK, SECOND FLOOR, TIS HAZARI COURT, DELHI
SUMMON FOR PUBLICATION
PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT
(Order 5 Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
CS (COMM) NO 592/2025
OM LOGISTICS LIMITED ..... PLAINTIFF
V/S
ALTIGREEN PROPULSION LABS PVT. LTD. ... DEFENDANTS
To,
ALTIGREEN PROPULSION LABS PVT. LTD.
ADD AT: SURVEY NO 173, EURO SCHOOL ROAD, NCPR INDUSTRIAL LAYOUT, DODDANAKUNDI INDUSTRIAL AREA 2, SEETHARAMAPALYA, HOODI, BANGALORE, BANGALORE NORTH, KARNATAKA, INDIA, 560048.
ALSO AT: BLOCK-A, PLOT NO. 118/138, GULAB BAGH, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI- 110059 **ALSO AT:** A-87, H-BLOCK, SACHIN YERAVADEKAR SHILP ENGINEERS, MIDC PIMPRI, PIMPRI CHINCHWAD, PUNE, MAHARASHTRA 411018. MOB: 9810231695, 8130370555, 9844022250, 9821434000. EMAIL: amit@altigreen.com
Whereas you the person named above, could not be served in the above-mentioned civil suit pending in this Court preferred by the plaintiff named above, by ordinary modes of services as provided in Order 5 of CPC. Accordingly, by way of the present publication you are hereby informed that the above-mentioned suit is listed in the Court named above on **02.03.2026 at 10:00 A.M.** You are required to appear in the said suit personally or through a pleader duly authorized.
Please note that in case you do not appear in the above-mentioned suit listed on the next date of hearing before the Court, the matter shall be proceeded against you as ex-parte and Court would proceed for final disposal of the case against you.
GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the court on this **31st Day of JANUARY, 2026.**
District Judge (Commercial Court-3) West, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES
OFFICE OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER (HANDICRAFTS)

HANDICRAFTS AWARD 2025

The office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) confers Handicrafts Awards, the highest in the Handicrafts Sector to outstanding craftsperson in recognition of their contribution towards the growth & development of its craft. Online/Offline Applications are invited from eligible craftsperson for Handicrafts Awards 2025 as per following categories.

Shilp Guru Award:		
Category	**Craft Category**	**No. of Award**
Shilp Guru Award	Craft Category	05
	Exclusively for Women	01
	Total	**06**

National Award:			
S. No	**Categories**	**Sub-Categories**	**No. of Awards under each Category/ Sub-category**
1	Craft Category	Metal ware (e.g. metal, bidri work etc.	01
		Wood work	01
		Cane & Bamboo and other forest-based product	01
		Stone ware	01
		Pottery, ceramics and terracotta	01
		Paintings	01
		Jewellery and semi-precious gem stone	01
		Paper Machie crafts and paper crafts	01
		Artistic textiles (e.g. hand block printing, tie and dye applique work, quilting and patch work), Embroideries and zari/zardozi work	01
		Handmade, carpet/floor coverings Rugs and durries	01
		Toys and dolls, puppet, games and kites	01
		Miscellaneous crafts (leather craft, lace work, crocheted goods & braiding, glass work, bone conch and shell, musical instruments etc.)	01
		Exclusively for Women artisan	01
		Young Artisan below 30 years	01
		Divyang artisan	01
		Endangered craft	01
		Tribal artisan	01
2	Design Innovation		01
3	Start-up Ventures/ Producer Company		01
	Total		**19**

2. For filling the online application, please log in to https://indian.handicrafts.gov.in and for more information regarding eligibility criteria, age, experience, application form, etc., details guideline of award can be downloaded from the website of the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) (www.handicrafts.nic.in) followed by clicking on the advertisement. For any information/assistance, the applicant may contact the nearest Handicrafts Service Centre (HSC).
3. The duly filled Online application form alongwith the requisite documents and Award entry shall be submitted to the nearest Handicrafts Service Centre latest by **31.03.2026.**

CBC 41103/11/0012/2526

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Forest Department
Mangrove Division-North Konkan
Abhimaan II, 5th Floor, Teen Haat Naka, Naupada, Thane (W)-400 602
Email- dfommcu@gmail.com
Parent Portal: **http://mahatenders.gov.in**

E-Tender Second Call.

Tender Notice No. DFO/MDNK/59/2025-26.

Online Tender Forms in B-1 Format, for the following work are invited by the Divisional Forest Officer, Mangrove Division- North Konkan, Abhimaan II, 5th Floor, Teen Haat Naka, Naupada, Thane (W)-400 602 from the Bidder s registered with the Government of Maharashtra in appropriate class of Tender Notice.

The blank tender documents should be downloaded from Government website **http://mahatenders.gov.in from 18/02/2026 at 05.00 pm to 25/02/2026 at 05.00 pm. Blank Tender documents will not be sold by this office**; interested Bidders have to download tender documents from the website. For any queries in this regard the interested Bidders can contact on telephone no 022-69309286 during office hours.

All requisite information required for the submission of Bid Capacity documents is available on the above said website. If any assistance is required regarding e-Tendering (uploading/downloading) please contact NIC Help Desk number: **1800 3070 2232.**

Sr. No	Name of work	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Tender processing Fees (Non-Refundable)
01	Request for Proposals from Experienced Agencies for Appointment of Consultant Firm for the Preparation of the Zonal Master Plan (ZMP) for the Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary, Eco-sensitive Zone (ESZ) as per Notification No 4293 dated 14th October 2021 of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).	Rs.40,000/-	Rs.590/- (Including GST)

1) No changes are to be made by the Bidder in the tender documents published on the website. If any changes are made the tender documents will be rejected & action accordingly will be taken against the Bidder. Information published on the government website will be final.
2) Right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason there of is reserved.

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer, Mangrove Division- North Konkan

DGIPR/2025/2026/5945

Taxes prove futile to burn out cigarette use in India

As the world's second-largest consumer and producer of tobacco, India's recent cigarette taxes account for only 53% of the retail price, a figure well below the WHO's 75% benchmark for significantly deterring consumption, especially among young and low-income users; meanwhile, the GST rate on beedis, has been reduced to 18%

Divya Gandhi
BENGALURU

One puff of a cigarette, within seconds, infuses the human bloodstream (via the lungs) with nicotine, the acutely addictive and carcinogenic chemical in tobacco. Nicotine binds to the brain's cellular receptors, sparking the dopaminergic reward system to keep smokers hooked. And then there are additives in cigarettes, such as menthol, which gets nicotine to linger longer in the body, affecting the central nervous system.

Tobacco use, one of the major causes of death and disease in India, kills 1.35 million people every year, from cancer, lung disease, cardiovascular disease and stroke, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). India happens to be the world's second largest consumer and producer of tobacco. A huge source of revenue for the country, cigarettes aren't banned, but every Budget, raises the price of a stick.

The additional excise duty, starting February 1, pushed up the price of cigarettes by 15-30% yet still fell short of the WHO's benchmark on how much taxes should make up the retail price.

"We have strong evidence globally about the effectiveness of tax hikes in reducing tobacco consumption in India," Upendra Bhojani, senior fellow, and the lead, Centre for Commercial Determinants of Health, at the Institute of Public Health, Bengaluru, told *The Hindu*. But he added that the challenge is that historically, especially until the last couple of years, tax increase on tobacco products "was not significant," and especially did not keep pace with the consumer inflation index.

"This makes tobacco products affordable rather than costly," Dr. Bhojani said.

He pointed to a 2017 peer reviewed paper that studied the association between State-level VAT rates and tobacco use in India. It showed that every 10% increase in cigarette VAT rates was associated with a decrease of 0.9% or 17.2% in cigarette smoking by men, and a decrease of 6.5% or 21.6% in the dual use of cigarette and beedi smoking among men. "The Tobacco Control Policy India survey showed lower decline, the Global Adult Tobacco Survey showed an even steeper decline," said Dr. Bhojani.

Fighting the killer: Tobacco use, one of the major causes of death and disease in India, kills 1.35 million people every year, from cancer, lung disease, cardiovascular disease and stroke, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). FILE PHOTO

Low income users

The recent taxes on cigarettes in India account for only 53% of the retail price. That is well below the 75% benchmark recommended by WHO as the level at which tobacco taxes begin to significantly deter consumption, especially among young and low-income users.

The last couple of years have seen government efforts to raise taxes on tobacco, said Dr. Bhojani, citing the example of a significant upward revision of excise duties as well as GST rate revision to 40% for cigarette and smokeless tobacco. There is also a cess now on smokeless tobacco. "These are certainly positive moves from the public health perspective. However, they are still lower than international best practice of upto 75%."

The GST rate on beedis, however has been reduced to 18%, he pointed out. "Beedis are more prevalent than cigarettes, and the second most prevalent form of tobacco use after smokeless tobacco." They are consumed by the lower income strata, "so its a lost opportunity as it will worsen the inequities in tobacco use and burden." The GST rate on beedis could be made 40%, he added.

Not just lobbying

With strategies varying from lobbying to outright attempts to manipulate delegations, the tobacco industry's tactics are a cause for serious concern, Andrew Black, acting head of the secretariat of the the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), said in a release.

In October last year, the FCTC alerted governments and the public that the tobacco industry is intensifying efforts to interfere with the work of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the treaty's decision-making body, to weaken global tobacco control measures.

> All sectors of the tobacco industry have been shown to influence tobacco control-related policy in their favour in India
>
> **UPENDRA BHOJANI**
> Senior fellow, Centre for Commercial Determinants of Health, Institute of Public Health

"This is not just lobbying; it is a deliberate strategy to try to derail consensus and weaken measures to further the treaty's implementation. The tobacco industry's interference is one of the biggest constraints and barriers to the implementation of the Convention," said Dr. Black. He cautioned vigilance against the industry's tactics and misinformation.

"All sectors of the tobacco industry – cigarette, beedis, and smokeless tobacco companies – have been shown to influence tobacco control-related policy in their favour in India," said Dr. Bhojani. We have seen this through the India tobacco industry Interference Index, he added. "India is a party to the FCTC and the tobacco Industry's Interference Index shows that the country has reduced marginally over the years."

Industry's pollution

In November 2025, the 11th session of the COP, which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, brought together Parties to the Convention to make necessary decisions to achieve the objectives of the FCTC, "including the discussion of measures to prevent nicotine addiction, and for the protection of the environment and human health, among others."

During the COP, 160 Parties gathered for six days and made decisions on tobacco control and the environment; increasing sustainable resources for tobacco control; forward looking tobacco control measures; and issues relating to the liability of the tobacco industry for the damage it causes.

"These important decisions made by Parties to the Convention will contribute towards saving millions of lives in the years to come and protecting the planet from the environmental harms of tobacco," said Dr. Black.

Among the themes discussed were protecting the environment and human health from the harms of tobacco, including measures to prevent and manage the waste produced by tobacco and nicotine products and related electronic devices. "Trillions of cigarette butts containing plastic filters and leaching harmful chemicals pollute the environment each year," another WHO release stated.

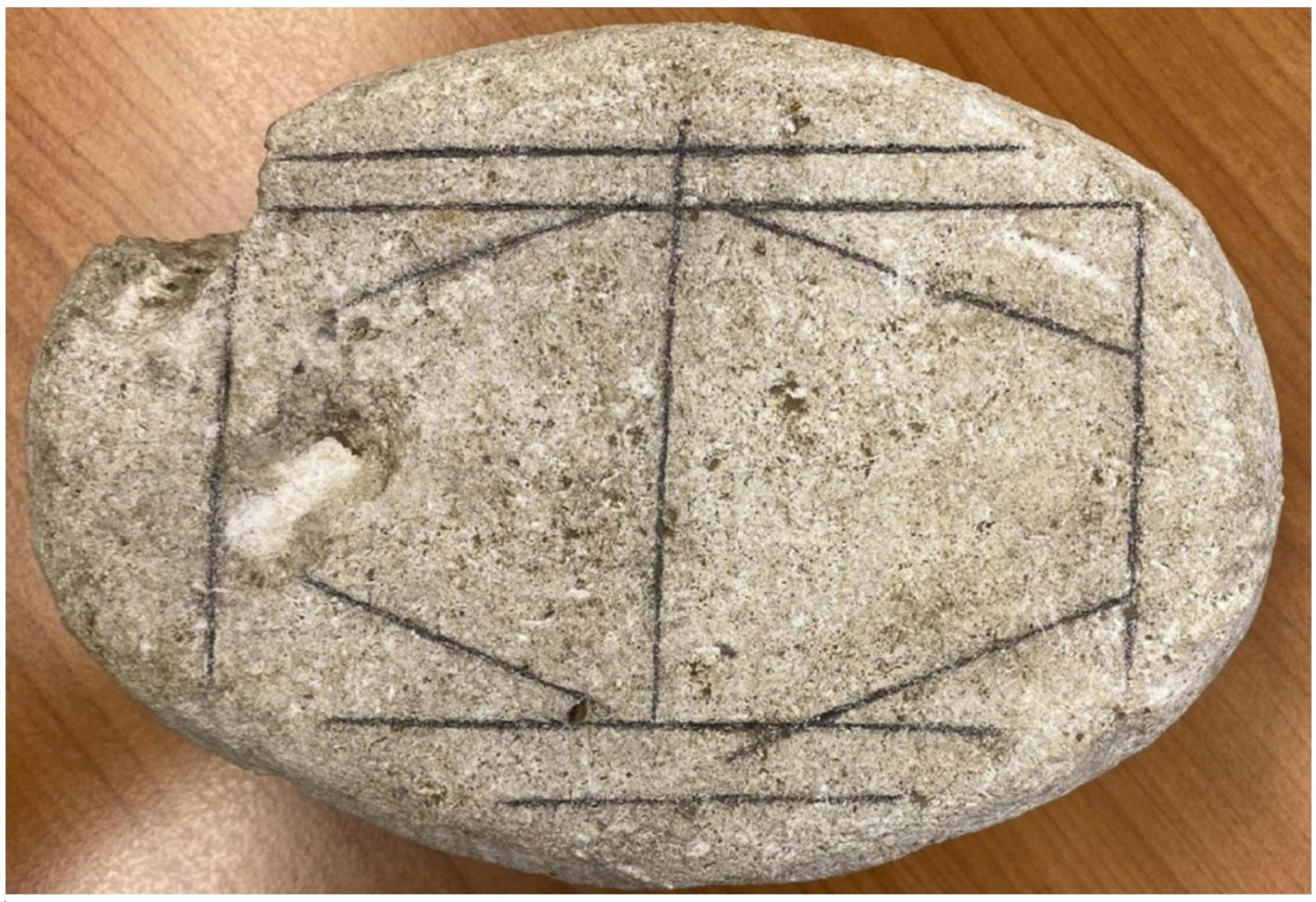
Prashanth N. Srinivas, senior fellow at the Institute of Public Health, Bengaluru, goes beyond tobacco: "The experiences with tobacco industry interference and tobacco-related regulation need to be transferred to other health-harming industries, including the alcohol industry and the food processing industry," he told *The Hindu*.

divya.gandhi@thehindu.co.in

THE GIST

- The last couple of years have seen government efforts to raise taxes on tobacco, however they still fall short of international best practice of 75%
- Beedis which are more commonly used than cigarettes in India had their GST rates lowered to 18%
- With strategies varying from lobbying to outright attempts to manipulate delegations, the tobacco industry's tactics are a cause for serious concern, say experts

BIG SHOT



A smooth, white stone dating from the Roman era and unearthed in the Netherlands has long baffled researchers. Now with the help of artificial intelligence, scientists believe they have cracked the mystery: the stone is an ancient board game and they have even guessed the rules. AFP

WHAT IS IT?

Snowball earth: not quite still

Vasudevan Mukunth

In the Cryogenian Period (720-635 million years ago), some scientists believe the earth went through episodes when ice covered even the tropical latitudes, and the world was called 'snowball earth'. If the oceans were mostly frozen, it was also believed that the usual interactions between the ocean, atmosphere, sunlight, and climate patterns would have been greatly weakened.

A new study in *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* has reported evidence that shorter climate cycles still operated during at least one phase of this snowball earth. The authors analysed 2,640 thin layers of sediment in the Port Askaig Formation on the Garvellach Islands in Scotland. They argued that the layers are annual varves, meaning each year produced a light, coarser layer from the runoff water, followed by a dark, finer layer when the melting stopped.

Then they measured how thick each yearly couplet was. This thickness record revealed climate cycles matching well-known solar cycles: roughly 9-11 years (the sunspot cycle) and about 60-150 years (which is the slower Gleissberg cycle that periodically suppresses sunspots). The data also showed a variability of two to five years, similar to modern climate swings like the El Nino.

An artistic depiction of snowball earth. OLEG KUZNETSOV (CC BY)

The team also simulated the climate of snowball earth with different amounts of sea ice and again found signs of a two to three year variability.

In sum, even when the earth was a giant snow-covered ball, the climate may have 'pulsed' on timescales of years to centuries instead of staying still.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Silk Board double-decker flyover ramps set for February completion

The 5.12-km flyover, constructed at an estimated cost of ₹449 crore, is seen as a transformative project to streamline vehicular movement at one of city's most notorious traffic bottlenecks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The delay has rendered a significant portion of the flyover underutilised, forcing commuters to continue relying on congested surface roads. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Nearly a year and a half after major portions of the double-decker flyover along Namma Metro's Yellow Line were opened to traffic, key segments of the structure remain incomplete, limiting its effectiveness in easing congestion around the busy Central Silk Board junction. Officials, however, have indicated that the remaining stretch is likely to be operational by the end of this month.

The 5.12-km double-decker flyover, constructed by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) at an estimated cost of ₹449 crore, was envisioned as a transformative project to streamline vehicular movement at one of Bengaluru's most notorious traffic bottlenecks.

While the primary signal-free corridor connecting Ragigudda to Silk Board junction was inaugurated in July 2024, crucial ramps linking HSR Layout with Ragigudda and BTM Layout are still under development.

In particular, a 1.37-km stretch of ramps that would enable seamless connectivity between HSR Layout, Ragigudda, and BTM Layout remains inaccessible.

Reasons for delay

The delay has rendered a significant portion of the flyover underutilised, forcing commuters to continue relying on congested surface roads.

According to a senior BMRCL official, civil works on the pending ramps are progressing steadily. "We are currently completing the concrete slab casting and associated structural works on the remaining ramps. Our teams are working on a priority basis, and we are aiming to finish the civil components by the end of February. Once that is achieved, the stretch will be opened to traffic at the earliest," the official said.

One of the factors contributing to the delay was the installation of a 42-m steel bridge over the existing roadway, which required intricate engineering coordination alongside the elevated metro viaduct. The double-decker structure integrates road infrastructure with the Yellow Line's elevated corridor and passes through key points such as Jayadeva Hospital, BTM Layout, and Silk Board junction.

The project includes five ramps in total, designed to facilitate smooth traffic dispersal.

Currently, ramps A, B, and C are operational. Ramp A connects the Ragigudda metro station to Hosur Road, while ramp B diverges from ramp A towards HSR Layout. Ramp C links BTM Layout to Hosur Road and HSR Layout via ramp A.

However, ramps D and E, both critical for direct connectivity, are yet to be completed. Ramp D, planned above ramp A and the metro viaduct, will offer a direct elevated link from HSR Layout to Ragigudda. Ramp E is intended to descend from the HSR Layout towards BTM Layout.

Criticism

The prolonged delay has triggered criticism from daily commuters who say the project has not fully delivered on its promise. Sreekar Prasad, a resident of Ragigudda, said motorists continue to struggle with peak-hour congestion. "Because the ramps are incomplete, we are still forced to use the crowded surface roads, especially near BTM Layout and Silk Board. If BMRCL manages to open the remaining stretch by February, it will greatly benefit those of us travelling from the HSR Layout side. At present, we are stuck in heavy traffic during peak hours due to the unfinished work," he said.

New way

Vehicles plying on the newly built Road Overbridge between Vijayanagara and Padarayanapura in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

60 million rose stems flown out via KIA this Valentine's season

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The momentum was supported by expanded cargo infra of KIA while ensuring freshness, speed, and temperature precision.

The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru shipped around 60 million (6 crore) rose stems, weighing more than 2,700 tonnes, to 26 international and 47 domestic destinations this Valentine's season.

"This marks a 38% year-on-year increase in stem volumes, and a 64% rise in tonnage, reinforcing the airport's position as India's leading gateway for perishable exports for five consecutive years," according to the Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL).

International shipments remained steady at 305 tonnes with Singapore emerging as the top overseas destination, followed by Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Abu Dhabi (UAE), New York (U.S.), and Kuwait.

New international destinations added this season include Los Angeles, Dallas Fort Worth, Orlando in the U.S., London Gatwick (U.K.), and Toronto (Canada). On the domestic front, 2,402 tonnes of roses were transported, recording a 79% year-on-year increase in tonnage. "Delhi and Kolkata continued to anchor demand while Guwahati, Mumbai and Jaipur maintained strong throughput. Notably, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chandigarh and Lucknow recorded over 150% growth compared to last season," BIAL stated.

The momentum was supported by expanded cargo infrastructure of KIA while ensuring freshness, speed, and temperature precision.

Chain-snatcher held after 1.5-km chase

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BENGALURU: Hanumantha Putani, a City Armed Reserve constablenabbed a chain-snatcher after a dramatic pursuit of 1.5 km near the railway underpass at Bapuji Nagar. City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh issued a certificate of appreciation to the constable on Tuesday.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18	
RISE 06:41	SET 18:26
RISE 07:10	SET 19:16
THURSDAY, FEB. 19	
RISE 06:40	SET 18:26
RISE 07:49	SET 20:08
FRIDAY, FEB. 20	
RISE 06:40	SET 18:27
RISE 08:28	SET 21:01

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	31	17
Bengaluru	30	18

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C Morning will be very cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool.

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THE HINDU
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Human super-predators not always 'super-scary' to wildlife, finds study

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Humans have climbed to the top of the food chain by skillfully hunting, trapping, and fishing for other animals at scales that far exceed other predators, altering how the animals behave and earning the tag of a "super-predator". But a new study led by the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), suggests that there is a bit more nuance to this idea.

While animals clearly respond with fear to humans who hunt or kill, they are far less consistent in how they react to non-lethal human presence.

A comprehensive meta-analysis, published in *Ecology Letters*, analyses three decades of research on how wild animals change their behaviour in response to different types of human interactions. The study examined behavioural shifts in foraging, vigilance, and movement across species and ecosystems to look into whether humans are always super-scary.

"The short answer is: no, not always," said Shawn D'Souza, PhD student at CES and the study's lead author. "We found strong evidence that lethal humans such as hunters and fishers are indeed perceived as threatening. Animals in areas exposed to lethal humans tend to be more vigilant and spend less time foraging. In contrast, responses to non-lethal humans, such as tourists or researchers are weaker and more variable."

An IISc release said passive human structures like roads and settlements sometimes reduced animal vigilance. "In certain cases, these areas can function as perceived refuges," D'Souza explained. "Predators often avoid humans, which can make areas near people feel safer for some prey species".

Another reason is that areas adjacent to roads are often cleared of thick vegetation, making them attractive grazing sites for smaller animals, said co-author Maria Thaker, professor at CES. But these sites still pose the risk of vehicular collisions.

The researchers chose foraging, vigilance, and movement as the behavioural parameters because these help capture trade-offs that animals face when managing risk. "Time spent being vigilant is time not spent feeding. Changes in animal movement affect energy expenditure and access to resources. Because these behaviours directly affect survival and reproduction, they offer a clear window into how fear of humans can shape wildlife populations over time," said the release, adding that the study's findings broadly support the "risk allocation hypothesis", which suggests that animals adjust their behaviour based on how intense and predictable a threat is. When danger is high and consistent, animals stay cautious, said D'Souza. When risk is low or predictable, they can afford to relax.

Bigger picture

Beyond individual behaviour, the researchers point to a bigger picture. Changes in fear and behaviour can cascade through ecosystems, altering grazing, predation, and ecological balance. According to co-author Kartik Shanker, professor at CES, the effect of lethal impacts on behaviour can actually help manage conflict. A small amount of culling may greatly reduce the ingress of wild animals in human-dominated areas compared to a range of other approaches currently in use, he said.

"We need more predictive frameworks that link behavioural responses to ecological and evolutionary context. That includes incorporating species traits, past exposure to humans, predator communities, and landscape structure," said Mr. D'Souza, adding that long-term and experimental studies will be key to understanding whether animals are simply getting used to humans or undergoing deeper evolutionary changes.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Revenue generated since 2010 through J&K power plant

3.6 in ₹ crore. The Sewa-II hydropower project in Kathua district has generated a revenue of ₹3,674 crore since its inception in July 2010. In total, the Jammu and Kashmir Power Corporation Limited receives 13% free power from the Sewa-II hydropower project. PTI

U.K's unemployment rate during final quarter of 2025

5.2 In per cent. Britain's unemployment rate rose to a five-year high of 5.2% in the final quarter of 2025, as the country's economy struggled to grow. It was a slight increase from the 5.1% jobless rate seen in the three months to end-November. It was the highest level since January 2021. AFP

Human-wildlife conflict cases in J&K between 2023-2025

15,661 These cases resulted in 32 deaths and 350 injuries, with the Jammu district alone accounting for nearly 18% of these incidents. For 2024-25, 6,360 cases have been reported so far, resulting in 213 injuries and 14 deaths. PTI

The share of women as AI professionals worldwide

30 In per cent. Only 30% of AI professionals worldwide are women, 16% of which are AI research roles, UN Women said, calling for greater female participation in building artificial intelligence tools to better reflect women's needs in health, finance, climate resilience, and safety. PTI

People who fell ill after consuming food at a Jharkhand fair

175 At least 175 people, mostly children, fell ill after they allegedly consumed contaminated food at a fair in Palamu, Jharkhand, officials said on Monday. The incident was reported from Dwarka village under the Panki Police Station limits. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On the importance of satire

Can satire, comedy or a work of art be a threat to national security or defence of the nation? The Supreme Court has consistently held that satire is one of the most effective art forms revealing the absurdities, hypocrisies and contradictions of life

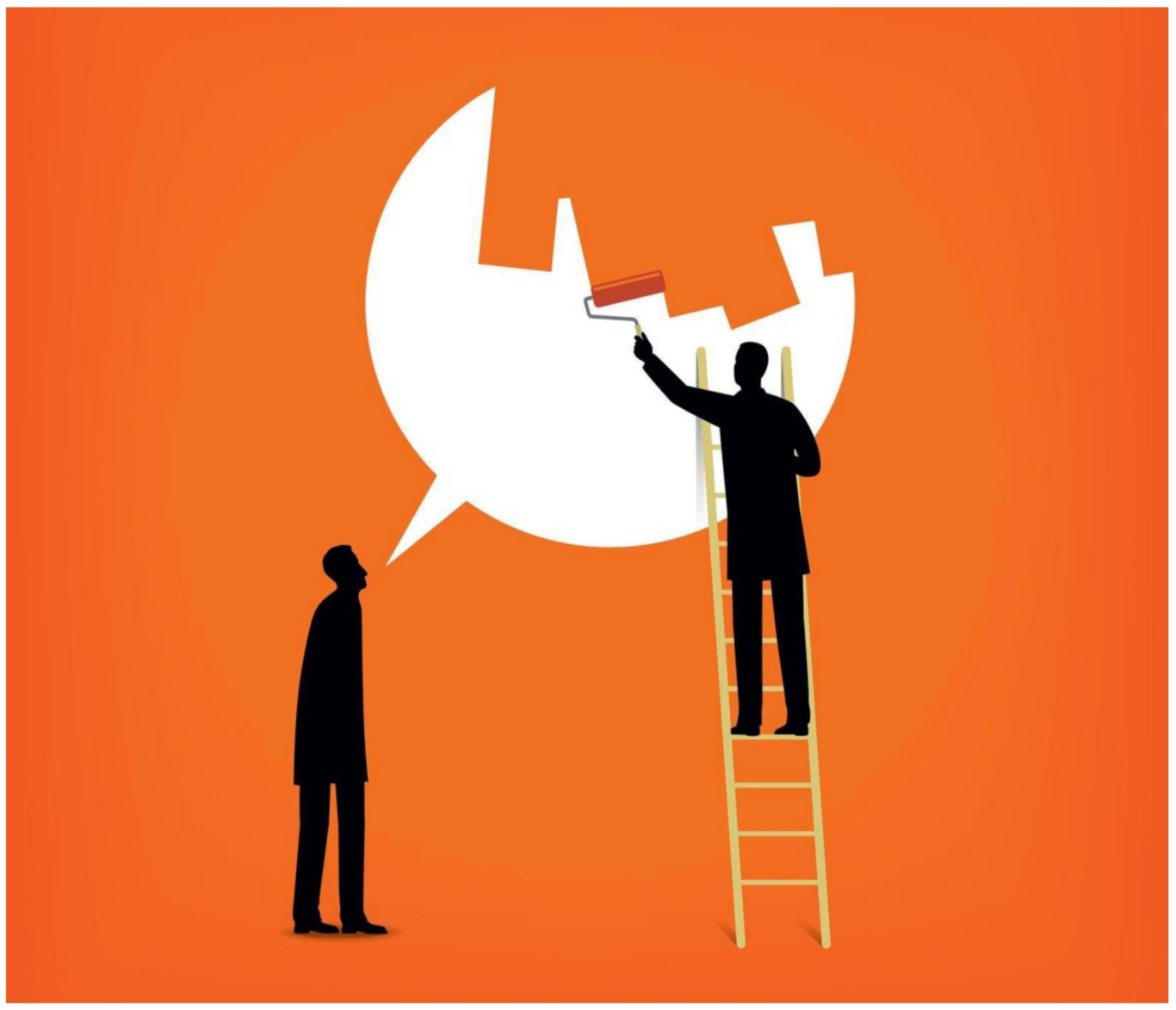
LETTER & SPIRIT

Krishnadas Rajagopal

If lampooning was a threat to national security, defence, reputation and India's foreign relations, the first Prime Minister of the country, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru would have desisted from telling cartoonist K. Shankar Pillai – "Don't spare me, Shankar".

Recently, access to a 52-second cartoon video reportedly featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi was blocked from the social media handles of *The Wire,* an online news portal. The portal reported that one of its editors was "informed orally.... that the grounds for blocking the cartoon were that it spread rumours/unverified information that would affect the defence, security, reputation of the country and India's relations with foreign countries".

The Editors Guild of India issued a statement that the incident was yet "another example of the rising intolerance to comment and scrutiny on the part of the government and its representatives... and serves to tarnish India's credentials as an accommodative democracy that gives space to media, including satire and humour".



GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

- Recently, access to a 52-second cartoon video reportedly featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi was blocked from the social media handles of *The Wire,* an online news portal.
- The Supreme Court, in its March 2015 judgment in *Shreya Singhal versus Union of India*, held that not only the social media intermediary but also the 'originator' of the online content must be heard before a blocking is passed by the government.
- Globally, courts in democracies have entitled cartoons and satire with greater latitude, tolerating them as an essential ingredient of public life and opinion.

Legal precedents

The Guild drew attention to the government's "unsheathing" of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules of 2026, which is poised to come into effect from February 20, the day the Global AI Impact Summit ends in New Delhi. The amended rules give social media platforms three hours, a sharp reduction from the 24-36 hours under the 2021 Rules, to take down content, including synthetically-generated ones, deemed illegal by a court or an "appropriate government".

Meanwhile, the Karnataka High Court has recently upheld the 'Sahyog' content-blocking portal, a government platform to automate the process of sending notices to intermediaries in order to facilitate the removal or disabling of access to any information, data or communication link being used to commit an unlawful act.

The High Court had rejected a petition by X (formerly Twitter) that the portal bypassed procedural safeguards which need to be mandatorily followed by government authorities before blocking public access to online content under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000. The social media platform had argued that the government was using the "safe harbour" regime to nudge social media intermediaries into blocking content and restricting free speech and expression.

On the other hand, the Supreme Court, in its March 2015 judgment in *Shreya Singhal versus Union of India*, held that not only the social media intermediary but also the 'originator' of the online content must be heard before a blocking is passed by the government.

The *Shreya Singhal verdict* had held that any blocking of content under Section 69A could be done by the Union government only for reasons prescribed in Article 19(2) of the Constitution, such as threatening the security or defence of the country, friendly relations with foreign nations, and in order to maintain public order or prevention of incitement.

The reasons for the blocking order have to be given in writing and it can be subject to review by a committee.

Defining satire

However, the question is whether satire, comedy or a work of art is a threat to national security or defence of the nation. The Supreme Court has consistently held that satire was basically an exaggeration of a particular situation or event beyond normal bounds that it becomes ridiculous, inducing laughter, and in the process exposes certain ills or shortcomings.

The Supreme Court in *Indibily Creative (P) Ltd. versus State of West Bengal*, a 2019 judgment, quoted senior advocate Madhavi Goradia Divan that "satire is a literary genre where topical issues are held up to scorn by means of ridicule or irony"'. The top court went on to note that satire was one of the most effective art forms revealing the absurdities, hypocrisies and contradictions of life. The judgment highlighted satire's "unique ability to quickly and clearly make a point and facilitate understanding in ways that other forms of communication and expression often do not".

Justice K. Ramaswamy, speaking for the Supreme Court Bench in the 1997 caselaw of *D.C. Saxena versus Chief Justice of India* cautioned the government that "prohibition of freedom of speech and expression on public issues prevents and stifles the debate on social, political and economic questions which in the long term endangers the stability of the community and maximises the source and breeds for more likely revolution". The Supreme Court, in the *Indibly Creative* caselaw, had even quoted Albert Camus to defend the freedom of artistic expression through satire and comedy, noting that "art, by virtue of that free essence I have tried to define, unites whereas tyranny separates. It is not surprising, therefore, that art should be the enemy marked out by every form of oppression".

In *Kama versus M. Jothisorupan*, a 2018 judgment of the Madras High Court, the single judge Bench termed a cartoon as a close relation of caricature, implying a deliberate exaggeration intended to produce satirical effect. The Bench termed a satirical cartoon as "intrinsically a weapon of ridicule". The judgment explained that the appeal of the political cartoon or caricature was often based on exploitation of unfortunate physical traits or politically embarrassing events – an exploitation often calculated to injure the feelings of the subject of the portrayal. The High Court said the political cartoon was a "weapon of attack", a bee sting of scorn, ridicule and satire. Something which would be least effective if it tried to "pat some politician on the back".

The right to poke fun

Globally, courts in democracies have entitled cartoons and satire with greater latitude, tolerating them as an essential ingredient of public life and opinion.

The Madras High Court referred to how there was an "early cartoon portraying George Washington, the father of USA, as an ass".

The Supreme Court has, time and again, underscored that the art of satire and cartoons have to be evaluated through the eyes of a reasonable person who could laugh it off, unlike a "touchy and hyper-sensitive individual".

The Delhi High Court, while dismissing a plea for injunction against Netflix for streaming online content derogatory to lawyers, had championed the liberty of a creative artist to "project the picture of the society in a manner he perceives". It termed satire as one of the prime forms of exposing the ills of the society. It underscored the value of stand-up comedians in society as they use satire and exaggerate the ills to an extent that it becomes ridiculous.

The top court, in a March 2025 verdict, said "75 years into our Republic, we cannot be seen to be so shaky on our fundamentals that a mere recital of a poem, or for that matter, any form of art or entertainment, such as, stand-up comedy, can be alleged to lead to animosity or hatred amongst different communities". The observation was part of a judgment which found Congress MP Imran Pratapgarhi innocent of spreading communal hate and communal discord through his poem on "suffering injustice with love".

The same month saw the Supreme Court issue notice to the Union government on a petition filed by Software Freedom Law Center (SFLC) challenging provisions of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009. The petition has argued that Rules 8 and 9 make it optional for the government to inform the original creator of the online content about the proposed blocking action. The petition, argued by senior advocate Indira Jaising, said the government could use Rule 9 as an "emergency" provision to block content with hardly a word to the creator of the information. It contended that Rule 16 facilitated a blanket confidentiality regarding requests, complaints and actions taken for blocking information.

A similar petition filed by actor Sushant Singh challenging the 2009 Rules has been tagged with the SFLC petition. The Supreme Court has also issued notice in a third petition filed by senior journalist Sanjay Sharma, editor of the digital news platform '4PM', against the blocking of his YouTube channel by the government on grounds of national security and public order.

‘PPP model for district hospitals a very sensitive issue’

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Dinesh Gundu Rao

Describing privatisation of district hospitals under public-private partnership (PPP) model as a “very sensitive issue”, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Tuesday said he could not promise a blanket halt to all such ventures, even as he acknowledged protests against privatisation in parts of the State.

“Due to long struggles and protests, the Chief Minister has already decided on the Vijayapura PPP issue. However, these decisions are not solely in my hands, and I cannot promise a blanket halt to all PPP ventures,” he said at the valedictory meeting of the Right to Health (RTH) jatha in the city.

The jatha, organised across the State from February 2 to 17 by the Drug Action Forum - Karnataka (DAF-K) and Sarvatrika Arogya Andolana - Karnataka (SAA-K), along with around 40 partner organisations, concluded with a public meeting attended by health activists, workers’ unions, community-based organisations and district delegations.

Memorandum

A memorandum submitted to the Minister sought withdrawal of the privatisation of district hospitals under PPP models, enactment of a comprehensive Right to Health Act in Karnataka, and assurance of free and quality medicines in all government hospitals.

Bogesh Sollapura from Vijayapura referred to a 106-day agitation against the proposed privatisation of the Government Medical College hospital.

“The Chief Minister’s intervention to halt it gave people hope that public hospitals must remain accessible to the poor,” he said, urging the government to abandon PPP models across districts.

Karibasappa, a grassroots worker, said PPP-based privatisation of eight district hospitals had increased costs and reduced access for vulnerable communities dependent on public institutions.

Right to Health Act

On the proposed legislation, Mr. Rao said the government completed the groundwork. “We have completed all the background work to bring in the Right to Health Act and soon we are going to submit it to the Chief Minister,” he said.

The Minister addressed concerns over medicine shortage. “We have purchased the medicines, and the process is being streamlined. All government hospitals will have enough supplies shortly, and a normal supply of free medicines will be ensured within two months,” he said.

Participants cited a 2024 survey across 12 districts, which found patients collectively spent over ₹4 lakh on medicines, pointing to gaps in the public supply system. Sayyed Ishmail of the Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Ltd. (KSMSCL) said that over 60% of treatment expenditure was on medicines.

Congress delegation seeks fresh voters’ list after mapping

D.K. Shivakumar says that in view of the upcoming GBA, zilla, taluk, and gram panchayat elections, the State Election Commission has undertaken revision of the voters’ list, but ‘there are many lapses in the revised list’

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A delegation of Congress leaders, led by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, on Tuesday submitted a memorandum to State Election Commissioner G.S. Sangreshi, alleging serious lapses in the ongoing voter list revision ahead of the local body elections and seeking immediate corrective steps, including preparation of a fresh roll after proper mapping.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar with State Election Commissioner G.S. Sangreshi in Bengaluru on Tuesday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Addressing reporters after the meeting, Mr. Shivakumar said that in view of the upcoming Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), zilla, taluk, and gram panchayat elections, the State Election Commission (SEC) had undertaken revision of the voters’ list, but “there are many lapses in the revised list”.

Without verification

Mr. Shivakumar alleged that genuine voters had been deleted without proper verification and that members of the same family residing at a single address had been allotted to different polling booths. “The mapping is not being done properly. The voters’ list must be mapped correctly with residences and votes,” he said.

The memorandum sought a comprehensive audit of recent deletions in the affected constituencies and restoration of all eligible voters who had been wrongly removed after due verification. It demanded that members of the same household should not be arbitrarily distributed across different polling stations. Mr. Shivakumar said the party had urged the commission to prepare a new voters’ list after proper mapping and to allow party-appointed booth-level agents (BLAs) to accompany the commission’s BLOs during field verification. “We have appealed to revise the voters’ list within the legal framework,” he said.

> If something goes wrong, it will bring a bad name to the government and the SEC. That is why we have raised this issue in advance
>
> **D.K. SHIVAKUMAR**
> Deputy Chief Minister

The petition called for suspension of BLOs allegedly involved in irregularities, including splitting family votes across booths and removing names of minorities and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from the rolls.

Further, the Congress sought an opportunity for political parties to review and verify the revised electoral rolls before their final publication. “In view of the upcoming local body elections, the voters’ list must be corrected now itself. If something goes wrong, it will bring a bad name to the government and the State Election Commission. That is why we have raised this issue in advance,” Mr. Shivakumar said.

On whether a separate revision by the SEC would create confusion, he said the commission had the authority to undertake the process. “The older version of the voters’ list is not correct, and hence they need to prepare a new list after mapping,” he said.

The delegation included Ministers Ramalinga Reddy and Dinesh Gundu Rao, BAMUL Chairman D.K. Suresh, MLAs Rizwan Arshad and A.C. Srinivas, and MLCs Puttanna and Srinivas.

Advanced parking facility at K.R. Market

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Central City Corporation is reworking the now unused parking area at K.R. Market and installing an advanced parking facility.

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao, who inspected the ongoing works on Tuesday, said that 90% of the work has been completed and directed officials to finish the remaining work as soon as possible. The new parking facility will accommodate 400 two-wheelers and 200 cars. The facility will have 67 AI-based cameras, which will record complete data on the number of vehicles entering and exiting the premises. Additionally, 12 alarm systems are being installed to enhance safety. A proper drainage system has been installed in the basement to prevent rainwater accumulation.

Mr. Rao directed officials to maintain cleanliness and sanitation at the market.

Drugs worth ₹21.5 cr. seized, 15 arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Narcotics Wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB), along with multiple city police stations, arrested 15 persons, including three foreign nationals and 12 persons from other States during a crackdown on drug trafficking across Bengaluru. Based on credible information, police registered cases under the NDPS Act, 1985, and raided multiple locations.

Police seized a total of 9.46 kg of hydro ganja, 34 kg of ganja, 5.67 kg of MDMA, 131 gm of cocaine, 29 LSD pills, 27 gm of LSD strips, 462 ml of hashish oil, a car and a two-wheeler, four mobile phones, and ₹24,500 in cash.

The total market value of the seized contraband is pegged at around ₹21.5 crore.

N.W.K.R.T.C, Hubli Rural Division, Hubli
No.NWKT/HRD/TR/COMM/2755/2756 Date : 17-02-2026

E-Tender Notification No.01/26 & Negotiation Notification No. 01/2026

N.W.K.R.T.C. Hubballi Rural Division invited applications for the selection of Licensees through E-Tender & Negotiation for the commercial stalls (Newly contracted General Stalls at Gokul road bustand : Dollaras colony road Under SCSP & TSP Scheme, reserved for SC/ST), And Commercial stalls at Gokul Road Bustand-Hubli , Hosur-Hubli, Annigeri, Kundgol, Kalaghtagi bustand, General Stalls/Luggege Room & Big size Open Space at Gokul Road Bus stand Hubli & Cleaning contract of tolilet/urinal/bus stand area under pay & use system in bus stands of, Soushi, Nalavadi and Kalaghtagi from : **17-02-2026.** The tender details & dates are as follows.

E-procurement Details	Fixed Dates	Negotiation Details	Fixed Dates
E-Tender doucuments can be downloaded from **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in**	Dt : **13/03/2026** up to 17:00	Last date of sale of Negotiation application forms	**11/03/2026** up to 15:00
Last date for online bid submission	Dt : **14/03/2026** up to 17:30	Last date for Submission of filled forms with documents & D.D.of E.M.D.	**12/03/2026** up to 11:00
E-Tender open date (if no technical errors)	Dt : **16/03/2026** at 11:00	Negotiation Date	**12/03/2026** at 11:30

E-Tender doucuments can be downloaded from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Only certified DSC **(Digital Signature Certificate)** key holders can apply for E-Tender. For more details applicants may contact the NWKRTC’s Hubballi Rural Division Office, 4th Floor, C.B.T.-Hubli Bus Stand, C.B.T.-Hubballi. Mobile number **7760991652** (Divisional Traffic Officer)

DIPR/DWD/KSMCA/1243/2025-26 **SD/- Divisional Controller, NWKRTC: Hubli Rural Division**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING DIVISION KALABURAGI
(Office of the Executive Engineer, H & FWD Engineering Division, # PWD Quarters No: 110-D, Opp: HKES Womens Polytechnic Iwan-E-Shahi Colony Kalaburagi-585102
Phone/Fax No-08472 - 241982. E -mail-ee.khsdrp.klb@gmail.com

No: HFW/EE/DIVN/KLB/AE-2/PMC & DPR/2025-26/1630 Date:-16.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Division, Kalaburagi invites tender in Two Cover Document system for DPR, Architectural, Structural, Electrical, Sanitation and Other Services works, 05 packages and appointment of project management consultants works in 09 packages, electronic procurement platform Tenders are invited through (kppp portal) in Two Cover Document system. The minimum Estimated amount of Rs. 06.00 lakhs and the maximum amount is Rs. 51.23 lakhs. For more details, please visit the KPP portal.(**Refer kpp-portal for the details)**.

Calendar of Events: 1. Last date for receipt of tenders : 03-03-2026 upto 16:00 hrs. 2. Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) : 04-03-2026 at 16:30 hrs.

The tender details can be downloaded from the kppp portal platform (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Tenders shall be submitted electronically at (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) and EMD and tender processing fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested contractors will need to register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender.

Please note henceforth any changes in the schedule will not be published through news papers & further changes will be updated only in - kppp portal.

NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the under signed for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids /individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule/contents will not be published through news papers and further changes will be updated only on e-procurement portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/Kalaburagi/1085/KSMC&A/2025-26 **H & FWD Engineering Division, Kalaburagi**

Government of Karnataka
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION KALABURAGI
No : EE/PRED/KLB/KKRDB /TS-5/2025-26/6165 Date : 16/02/2026

:: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

(Through E-procurement Two Cover System)

1) Name of work: Construction of Class Rooms to Primary and High Schools Various 23 Villages in Chittapur Consstituency under KKRDB 2025-26 & 2026-27 Akshar Avishkar Head of Account Indent No. as follow (1) 24739 (2) 24740 (3) 24687 (4) 24679 (5) 24711 (6) 24714 (7) 24686 (8) 24681 (9) 24683 (10) 24741 (11) 24715 (12) 24744 (13) 24751 (14) 24743 (15) 24678 (16) 24680 (17) 24732 (18) 24685 (19) 24735 (20) 24719 (21) 24734 (22) 24745 (23) 24713 **Total 23 Works**, 2) Head of account: **KKRDB for the year 2025-26 & 2026-27**, 3) Amount put to tender: **Minimum Rs. 55,10,400.50, Maximum Rs. 83,08,457.13,** 4) Class of Contractor: Class- III and Above, 5) Issue of Blank Tender Documents: **16-02-2026 to 06-03-2026 upto 4.00 pm,** 6) Tender Form Fee: As per KPPP Norms, 7) E.M.D. Fee: Minimum Rs. 55,500.00, Maximum Rs. 1,66,500.00, 8) Receipt of completed tender documents: **16-02-2026 to 06-03-2026 upto 4.00 pm,** 9) Technical Bid Opening Date: **07-03-2026 After 4.00 pm**, 10) Financial Bid opening Date: **09-03-2026 After 10.00 am**, 11) For more details contact: Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Opp: Karnataka Grameen Bank (PKGB) Head office, Kusnoor Road, Rajapur Kalaburagi, 12) Website Address: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/Kalaburagi/1090/KSMC&A/2025-26 **Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Kalaburagi**

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಸಯ್ಯಾಜಿ ರಾವ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಮೈಸೂರು-570024.
E-mail: eeemccmys@gmail.com, eewmccmys@gmail.com

ನಂ. ಹೆಚ್1/ಪವಿ/101/2022-2023 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.02.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

Tender	No of Works	Amount	ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
			ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ರವರೆಗೆ	ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ರ ನಂತರ
EOI	06	NA	09.02.2026	17.02.2026	18.02.2026
EOI	01	NA	16.02.2026	24.02.2026	25.02.2026
Service Tender	01	55.44 Lakhs	16.02.2026	24.02.2026	25.02.2026
	01	67.11 Lakhs	18.02.2026	25.02.2026	26.02.2026

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು (**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾ.ಅ(ಪೂ-ಪ) ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. **ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ:** ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ / ಬದಲಾವಣೆ / ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ (**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**) ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/-ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/1681/ತಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/2025-26 ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

BENGALURU SMART INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED
Office of the Chief Engineer-02 Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE), N.R.Square, Bengaluru-02

No: B-SMILE/CE-2/TEND/10/2025-26 Date: 17.02.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER(NIT)
(Through http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only) (Competitive Bidding under KW-4 Two Cover System)

The Government of Karnataka has constituted “Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited” (B- SMILE) for implementation of Specific Infrastructure works in the city of Bengaluru. On behalf of the Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE), The Chief Engineer -02, Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE) invites tenders from eligible contractors registered with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the development of work under KW-4 (Two Cover system). The details of the work are as under.

Sl.No.	Name of the Work / Amount Put to tender/Construction Period
1	Comprehensive development of **Outer Ring Road from Silk Board Junction to K.R. Puram Metro Station to Global standards. Package 2 :** Iblur Junction to KR Puram Metro Station (Length 11.57km) Amount put to tender: **Rs. 223.50 Crores (Excluding GST),** Construction Period: **11 Months**

Calendar of events: 1) Date and time for Availability of Tender documents in KPP Portal **- 20.02.2026 at 16.30 Hours. 2)** Last date for submission of pre bid queries **-27.02.2026 @ 13.00 Hours. 3)** Date and time of Pre-bid meeting under the Chairmanship of Director (Technical), B-SMILE **27.02.2026 @ 15.00 Hours,** Office of the Director (Tech), B-SMILE, NR Square, Bengaluru 560002. **4)** Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders **10.03.2026 at 16.00 Hours. 5)** Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bids **11.03.2026 at 16.00 Hours. 6)** Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid - **Will be Notified.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer -02
Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE)

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Public Works Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department, Division: Yadgir.
GSTIN:29BLR002252F1DR

No.EE/PWD/Divn/YDG/TS-2/e-Tender/2025-26/ 2981 Dated:16.02.2026

Short Term e-Tender Notification

1) Details of works: On behalf of Governor of Karnataka as per KTPP Amendment 1999-2000 Act 2000 Standard Bid Document KG-3 Karnataka Public Works Department invited item Rate Tender under KPPP Portal in Two Cover System from Eligible Agency/Contractors for following works Supplying and Installing of Two Tier Cots, Coir Mattresses and Electric Water Heat Pump to the Residential Pre-Metric and Post Metric Hostels Under Social Welfare Department of Seven Districts (PWD/2025-26/IND0195/CALL-2) Under KKRDB Plan for the year 2022-23 work Tender Called **2) Amount Put to Tender:** Rs.4266.38 Lakhs **3) Contractor Eligible Details:** As per KPPP Portal **4) Tender Procesing Fee and EMD Details:** Tender Fee, EMD & Period as per kppp portal, **5) Last Date & Time for Tender Pre-Bid Meeting:**19.02.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards) **6) Last Date & Time for Tender queries/Clarification:** 21.02.2026 (Upto 17.30 hrs) **7) Last Date & Time for Reciept of the tender in e-KPPP portal:** 25.02.2026 (Upto 16.00 hrs) **8) Date & Time of Opening of the Tender/Technical Bid:** 26.02.2026 (16.30 hrs Onwards) **9) Date & Time of Opening of the Financial Bid:** 02.03.2026 (11.30 hrs Onwards) **10) For More Details Contact:** Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division : Yadgir. **11) Website Address:** https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
NOTE: Any Corrections / Changes will be updated in the kppp Portal only

DIP/YDG/533/KSMC&A/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Yadgir.**

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chamarajanagara - 571313

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
No. 36/2025-26/ Dated : 16-02-2026 (Two Cover System)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, **Chamarajanagara** invites tender in co-ordination with e-procurement portal platform, Bangalore. Tender format as per **KW-4** through e-procurement under the Head of Account **Education Department** for **Chamarajanagara** Taluk. Date of application submission for tender document and submission of filled tender through online Date: **20-02-2026 to 13-03-2026 upto 16.00 hours.** Last date for clarifications/queries on tender **Date: 25-02-2026 upto 16.00 Hours.** date of opening of technical bid of the tender **Date: 16-03-2026 after 17.00 hours.** After the approval of Technical bid the Financial Bid will be opened. Tender Form Fee: As per e-procurement Details as belows.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimate Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	Approximate Value of Work (Rs. in lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.)	Contractor Eligibility
1.	ಕೊಳ್ಳೇಗಾಲ ಎಂ.ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ವಿ. ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಕೊಠಡಿ ದುರಸ್ಥಿ ಮತ್ತು ನವೀಕರಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ	125.00	-	2,00,000.00	Class-II & Above

For more details visit website : htpp://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in or contact the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chamarajanagara **(Ph. : 08226-223019)** during office hours.

AE Phone No. : 8073339806
No. : DIPR:CHANAGAR:716:2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, PRED Division, Chamarajanagara**

A BG-BGE

KEYWORD

The Naval uprising memorial in Colaba, Mumbai. PUBLIC DOMAIN

The 1946 Royal Navy revolt: solidarity amid sharpening polarisation

Characterising the revolt as a mere localised breakdown of military discipline and insubordination by naval ratings, colonial officials often described the insurrection as a mutiny. However, a brief account of the events that unfolded would help one understand the scale of the 'mutiny'

Robert Rahman Raman

February 18 marks the 80th anniversary of the Royal Indian Navy's (RIN) revolt of 1946, a brief armed uprising that began at the naval barracks in Bombay and quickly spread to the streets, gaining popular support.

Eighty years later, one must reassess the significance of this short-lived uprising amid these turbulent years, where South Asia is experiencing a worsening of inter-communal relations.

Mutiny or revolt?

Characterising the revolt as a mere localised breakdown of military discipline and insubordination by naval ratings, which lacked both centralised leadership and coordination, successive colonial officials often described the insurrection as a mutiny. However, a brief account of the events that unfolded between February 18-22 would help one understand the scale of the 'mutiny'.

The 'mutiny' started on February 18, 1946 when hundreds of ratings of the Royal Indian Navy at HMIS Talwar in Bombay went on a hunger strike. These ratings protested against poor food quality, low wages, and racial discrimination by British officers. As news of their strike spread, shore establishments across the castle and fort barracks, along with 22 ships anchored in the Bombay harbour, also refused to work. The naval ratings organised a procession in the city, carrying a portrait of Subhas Chandra Bose, and raised the flags of the Congress, the Muslim League, and the Communist Party on their ships. A naval central strike committee, formed shortly after the hunger strike, combined their grievances with broader national issues, such as the release of Indian national army soldiers.

On February 21, a more or less peaceful hunger strike transformed into a brief armed uprising in the city. It reached its climax when naval ratings inside the barracks waged a pitched battle with firearms against British military forces after they opened fire on the naval ratings. The threat of a full-scale military conflict hung over the city as the rebel ships, in response, manned guns, intending to defend their fellow ratings on shore. Over the next five days, the uprising spread to other naval establishments, ranging from Karachi and Bombay on the western coast to Madras, Cochin, the Andaman Islands, and Vishakhapatnam and Kolkata on the eastern coast. At its height, 78 naval ships from these naval establishments, 20 shore establishments, including one in Delhi, and nearly 20,000 naval ratings participated in this revolt.

Such a momentous event and a flashpoint in India's decolonisation journey has, however, left so few traces in public memory. It was soon submerged in the abyss of communal polarisation and in the violence of the Partition.

Moment of solidarity

While assessing the importance of the revolt, one often overlooks the broader context of the growing communal discord in the country since the breakdown of the Shimla Conference in September 1945. Bombay was no exception; it experienced communal rioting during this period but also saw an unprecedented, though short-lived, display of communal unity during the RIN revolt in February, 1946. After clashes between the British military and the RIN ratings, Hindu-Muslim protesters jointly took to the streets, urging people to observe a hartal in lieu of the firing on the rebels. That afternoon, the crowd raided post offices, dug up tram tracks, set up obstructions, and lit bonfires on the roads, bringing the city to a standstill. The Muslim neighbourhood of Bhendi Bazar and the mill district became sites of stone-throwing and street fights between workers and police.

On February 22, this popular fraternisation took the shape of a popular uprising against colonial rule. Workers, students, and poorer inhabitants came out on the streets in support of the naval ratings to defy the colonial authority's power to govern the city. They took out processions, barricaded various localities with boulders and barrels and torched buses and military vehicles to disrupt transport services. Muslim localities, which had been relatively quiet during the previous Congress's protests, emerged as focal points of this popular uprising. Muslim neighbourhoods were barricaded and patrolled by socially diverse groups. These processions crisscrossed various Hindu-Muslim localities, where citizens moved around carrying the tricolour, the League flag, and the Communist flags.

Bombay's mill district emerged as the epicentre of this uprising. All the textile mills, along with the railway workshops and other factories, were closed. Schools and colleges followed suit. Workers took control of the mill district, torched police stations, and indulged in pitched street battles with the patrolling police parties and British soldiers, leading to several casualties. To suppress this popular uprising, the British government left no stone unturned, mobilising army battalions and armoured vehicles to restore order.

A fierce battle erupted at Kamatipura and Madanpura, where Hindu and Muslim mill workers erected barricades and hurled stones along with petrol bombs at the advancing British forces. The stone-throwing crowd was then indiscriminately shot at by the British troops armed with machine guns and bayonets. In this intense and unequal street fight, around 200 working poor were killed, and hundreds more were injured. Despite this overwhelming use of brute force and violence, the military was unable to take control of the mill district and the city for a couple of days, even after the naval ratings surrendered on February 23.

Enduring legacy

The remarkable unity this historic event fostered was short-lived, as from August 1946, the failure of the Cabinet Mission and the call for direct action led to widespread communal violence. In retrospect, however, the uprising was part of a broader post-war anti-colonial radicalisation that represented alternative possibilities for popular mobilisation in our nation's life. While the revolt was undeniably a catalytic moment of insurrection aboard naval warships and in barracks, it was also a moment of popular fraternisation on the streets of Bombay.

Amid the spiralling communal discord, the RIN revolt of 1946 remains a moment of remarkable Hindu-Muslim unity, which the famous progressive poet Sahir Ludhianvi termed as "a flower of hope amidst a garden- scorched and desolate" (*Jhulse hue viraan gulshan me, ek aas-umeed ka phool khila*). The RIN revolt was part of a series of localised, often militant and united, popular mass actions by soldiers, workers, and peasants in the final years of colonial rule that cut across the hardened boundaries of communal polarisation.

Today, 80 years later, this historic event serves as a reminder that the potentialities of popular solidarities did not entirely diminish under the weight of the spiralling communal frenzy of the postwar era.

Robert Rahman Raman is assistant professor, history, SRM University, AP

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

American novelist Toni Morrison was born on this day in 1931. Here is a quiz on one of the most famous writers of all time

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1

Here is an easy question. What is her full name?

QUESION 2

This is Morrison's first novel, first published in 1970. The novel tells the story of a young African-American girl named Pecola who grew up following the Great Depression. Which is this book?

QUESTION 3

While working at Random House, Morrison played a vital role in bringing Black literature into the mainstream. During that time, she published and promoted the work of this little-known novelist and poet who in 1968 had been shot to death by a transit officer in the New York City subway. Who was it?

QUESTION 4

She was the first Black woman of any nationality to win this most coveted prize in 1993. Which was it?

QUESTION 5

When this person won the U.S. presidential race, Morrison said she felt like an American for the first time. Who was the President?

Visual question:

This 1998 film was adapted from Morrison's 1987 novel. Name the book. This book also got her an award in 1988. Name the award.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This country has the maximum number of coaches in the ongoing T20 World Cup. **Ans: South Africa – 5**

2. This country's current coach has won the T20 World Cup title twice before. **Ans: West Indies**

3. This player played in the ODI World Cup in 1975 but is now coach of another country. **Ans: Duleep Mendis (SL) coach of Oman**

4. Only seven nations have a coach who has played for their country. Among these seven, only these two have not played any international matches. **Ans: Ingleton Liburd (Canada) and Shukri Conrad (South Africa)**

5. There are three coaches who have moved from one country to another when compared with 2024. **Ans: Pubudu Dassanayake, Rob Walter and Stuart Law**

Visual: Name this former manager and now coach. **Ans: Lalchand Rajput**

Early Birds: Nobody got all the correct answers.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"How do you pronounce 'k..l..u..t..z'?"

"The 'u' is pronounced like the 'u' in 'but', 'cut', and 'hut'. The 'z' sounds like the 's' in 'sit', 'sat', and 'sip'. Do you know what 'klutz' means?"

"Doesn't it mean clumsy?"

"Very good. A klutz is a very clumsy person. Someone who drops things very often. It's a word used in very informal contexts. For example, I wouldn't let Nalini carry the glasses, if I were you. She is a bit of a klutz."

"The klutz next door wanted to borrow some of my tapes."

"My boss tells me that his son is a klutz."

"Really? I don't believe it. I saw him a couple of days ago."

"He is so muscular. I wish I were like him."

"Yes, he is very muscular. I am told that he has muscle between his ears too."

"That's great! I am going to ask him...."

"....do you know what the expression 'muscle between one's ears' means?"

"I don't."

"When you say that someone has muscle between his ears, it means he is very stupid. For example, many people in my office are convinced that my boss has muscle between his ears."

"If he had muscle between his ears, do you think he could have become someone so important?"

"Just look at our Ministers. Many of them have muscle between their ears. Yet, they are the people who tell us what to do and what not to do."

"That's true. I have a couple of cousins who have muscle between their ears. Does that sound O.K?"

"It certainly does. Every family has its quota of muscleheads."

"Musclehead? Does it mean stupid, too?"

"Exactly! It's a word used in informal contexts. The musclehead wanted me to help him with the assignment."

"Are you talking about me? Do you think I'm a musclehead?"

"No! No! Why would I call a yoyo like you a musclehead?"

"A yoyo? Hey, doesn't it mean the same thing as musclehead?"

"Not bad. Hey, you're no yoyo at all. Yes, one of the meanings of the word 'yoyo' is stupid. Like the word 'musclehead', it is also used in informal contexts."

"Can I say Sujatha is a yoyo?"

"I guess you could. But I wouldn't tell her if I were you."

"You said that one of the meanings of 'yoyo' is stupid. What other meanings does it have?"

"The word 'yoyo' is also used to refer to a foolish or a silly person. For example, ask the yoyo in the pink and yellow shirt what he wants."

"Some yoyo wants to know if I am interested in buying a Mercedes Benz."

"That's a good example. I am going to ask the yoyo next door to contest in the next elections."

"That's a good idea. Do you think the musclehead will?"

"I don't know. It's worth a try, don't you think?"

"Hard to say."

Published in The Hindu on August 17, 1999.

Word of the day

Incommode:
to cause inconvenience or discomfort to

Synonyms: bother, disoblige, inconvenience, put out, trouble

Usage: *The snow greatly incommoded them.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/incommodepron

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌɪnkəˈməʊd/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Paper leaks: High vigil for SSLC, II PU exams

The II PU annual exam-1 will be held from February 28 to March 17, while the SSLC exam-1 will be held from March 18 to April 2

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has taken steps to conduct SSLC and II PU annual exam-1 with elaborate security arrangements this year, in light of incidents of question paper leaks on social media platforms during the preparatory examination a few days ago.

School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa held a video conference with the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of all districts, Chief Executive Officers of Zilla Panchayat (ZP CEO), and Superintendent of Police (SP), along with top police officials, and instructed them to monitor social media platforms, including WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram and others.

School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa speaking during a press meet in Bengaluru on Tuesday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, Mr. Bangarappa said, "The accounts of those who spread information about question paper leaks on social media or conduct transactions for financial gain through fake question papers will be blocked. Action will be taken under the BNS and the Education Act."

II PU and SSLC examination 2026

Subject	II PU	SSLC
Date of exams	February 28 to March 17	March 18 to April 2
Students registered	7,10,363	9,02,889
Number of colleges/schools	5,174	15,941
Number of examination centres	1,217	2,871

"The Police Department has been instructed to keep a watch on habitual offenders involved in cases such as question paper leaks. This year too, steps have been taken to webcast the examination activities from all the examination centres in the state," he added.

Meanwhile, the Minister clarified that, grace marks policy will remain the same and no grace marks will be awarded.

Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has taken steps to conduct the II PUC annual exam-1 from February 28, to March 17, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in 1,217 examination centres.

This year a total of 7,10,363 students are enrolled from 5,174 PU colleges across the State.

As many as 2,92,645 students are enrolled for Science stream, 2,11,174 in Commerce and 1,42,982 in Arts stream this year.

Record enrollment

The SSLC annual exam-1 will be held from March 18 to April 2 from 10 a.m. to 1.15 p.m. in 2,871 examination centres across the State.

A total of 9,02,889 students from 15,941 schools have registered for the SSLC annual exam-1 this year, which is a record number of students compared to previous years.

A total of 8,12,855 freshers, 62,845 repeaters, and 27,189 private candidates have registered for the exam. However, 8,96,447 students had registered for the SSLC exam-1, last year.

"This time, students have been well prepared for the SSLC and II PUC exams. Blueprint, model question papers, question bank, previous year question papers, along with answer keys and centum papers have been made available in the 'Student Corner' of the KSEAB website to prepare for the exam. Workshops and meetings have been continuously held. Parents' meetings have also been held," Mr. Bangarappa said.

Free bus travel

Further, he stated that students appearing for SSLC and II PU examinations have been allowed free travel in KSRTC and BMTC buses.

"In addition, steps will also be taken to arrange free travel for examinees in private buses in Malnad and coastal districts," he said.

Mavalli Shankar, State convener, Dalit Sangharsh Samiti, addressing a press meet at the press club in Bengaluru on Tuesday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

'Campaign for Rohith Act' seeks enactment of Bill in Budget session

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

State government urged to release the draft Rohith Vemula Act for public consultation

Members of civil society group 'Campaign for Rohith Act' have urged the State government to enact Karnataka's Rohith Vemula (Protection of SC/STs from Caste Discrimination in Higher Educational Institutions) Bill 2025, which aims to safeguard the right to education and dignity of the Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) students in universities and higher educational institutions, in the upcoming Budget session.

They also urged the government to release the draft Rohith Vemula Act for public consultation and announce a clear timeline for its introduction and passage in the Legislative Assembly. Speaking at a press conference on Tuesday, Mavalli Shankar, State Convenor, Dalit Sangharsh Samiti said, "On January 17, 2026, Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition of Lok Sabha, publicly stated that the Karnataka government was in the process of implementing the Rohith Vemula Act. However, no draft has yet been released for public consultation, nor has a clear legislative timeline been announced. This delay has caused growing anxiety among SC/ST students across the State."

"The Campaign reiterates that existing regulatory measures, including the UGC Equity Regulations, 2026, are insufficient to address structural caste-based discrimination in higher education. A dedicated Rohith Vemula Act remains urgently necessary. The enactment of the Rohith Vemula Act would mark a historic step toward ensuring dignity, equality, and justice in Karnataka's universities and colleges," he added.

Private bank employee killed in road accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 27-year-old woman working in a private bank was killed after being hit by a speeding motorcycle near Dr. Rajkumar Road in Rajajinagar on Monday afternoon. The deceased has been identified as Yogeshwari, a resident of Kempegowda Layout.

The accident occurred around 12.30 p.m. when Yogeshwari had stepped out with a colleague for lunch. The two were crossing the road, when the colleague noticed an oncoming bike and stopped. Yogeshwari reportedly attempted to cross the road, and was hit by the speeding motorcycle. She was rushed to a hospital, where she succumbed. The bike rider, Deepan, 21, fell from the motorcycle and sustained injuries. He is currently undergoing treatment at a private hospital. The Rajajinagar Traffic Police have registered a case.

Media fraternity pays tribute to Ramiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The media fraternity in Karnataka on Tuesday paid tributes to veteran journalist and former MLC P. Ramiah, who died recently.

The programme organised in Bengaluru saw the launch of the revised version of his autobiography, *Naanu Hindu Ramiah*. The programme was organised by Karnataka Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi, Karnataka Madhyama Academy, Karnataka Union of Working Journalists, Bengaluru Press Club and Bengaluru Reporters' Guild.

Adichunchanagiri Mutt seer Nirmalanandanatha Swami and others paying tributes to Ramiah in Bengaluru on Tuesday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Recounting his association with Ramiah, who served *The Hindu* for over 45 years, senior journalist A. Jayaram, who worked with him from 1972 to 1998, said that Ramiah had a great grasp on news, and Secretariat reporting was his forte.

Senior journalist Asha Krishnaswamy said Ramiah was a ready reckoner for other journalists to recall old political developments.

Adichunchanagiri Mutt seer Nirmalanandanatha Swami observed that Ramiah's life had spanned beyond journalism as he was ahead in social service too by having links with various organisations.

इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी एवं सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय
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Prime Minister

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Shri Mohan Charan Majhi
Chief Minister, Odisha

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16001/21/2526

OIPR-16001/16003/2/25-26/0017

A BG-BGE

End of HDD's RS term in June sets off speculation over future

In June, the Janata Dal (Secular) supremo, who is the lone member from his party in the Rajya Sabha, is set to end his term and the regional party does not have the numbers to secure his re-election

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

There is speculation about the political future of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, nonagenarian politician known for his acumen and survival instincts in over six decades of his career, with the ongoing Parliament session being the last in his current term.

In June, the Janata Dal (Secular) supremo and the lone member from his party in the Rajya Sabha, is set to end his term and the regional party does not have the numbers to secure his re-election. This is the second tenure of Mr. Gowda in the Rajya Sabha after the first stint in 1996 when he was the 11th Prime Minister.

> With or without the Rajya Sabha membership, Mr. [Deve] Gowda's stature does not diminish. Re-nomination is a sensitive issue that needs to be handled carefully. We don't know what the Prime Minister would decide eventually

Eyes on BJP

All eyes are now on the BJP, the JD(S)'s ally in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which is likely, with its numbers in the Legislative Assembly, to win one seat. The Congress has the potential to win three of the four seats.

Another veteran leader, Congress president and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, is also among the four who are retiring from Karnataka.

The BJP-JD(S) have 84 votes, including 18 of the JD(S), assuring one seat to the alliance. Two of the BJP members have turned rebels and are seen in the Congress's camp.

Many JD(S) sources *The Hindu* reached out to said that Mr. Gowda was yet to spell out his future plans. "If he wishes to remain in the Rajya Sabha, he may speak to the top BJP leaders directly. Many seniors at the national level also want him to remain in the Rajya Sabha. His health and age should also permit him to meaningfully contribute to the discussions," a party source said.

In active politics

Mr. Gowda has often said that he plans to remain in active politics till his end to strengthen the party. The passage to the Rajya Sabha in 2020 was made smooth for Mr. Gowda with the support of the Congress, with Sonia Gandhi playing an active role, though the JD(S) did not have numbers then too.

This followed his defeat as the JD(S)-Congress alliance candidate from the Vokkaliga stronghold of Tumakuru in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections after he vacated the Hassan seat to his grandson Prajwal Revanna. The Congress-JD(S) coalition government had fallen earlier in July, 2019.

Incidentally, the JD(S) entered into an alliance with the BJP in 2023, ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Active involvement

Mr. Gowda, who has also served as Chief Minister between 1994 and 1996, entered the Legislative Assembly in 1962 and has been actively involved in politics at the State and the national level. He was an important leader in the formation of the Third Front before his party aligned with the BJP.

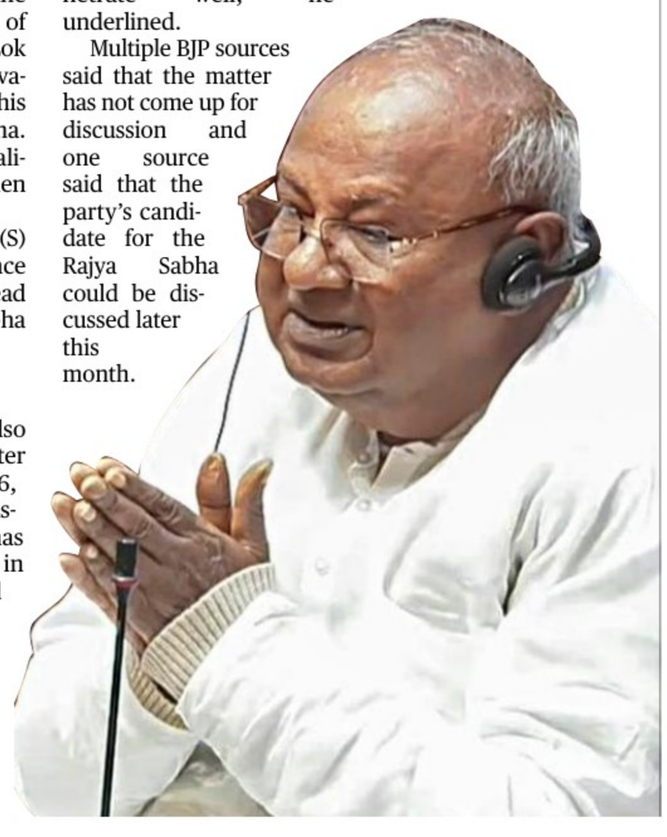
Beyond numbers

A JD(S) source argued that though they were in a disadvantageous situation in terms of numbers, the stature of the former Prime Minister brings value to the NDA. "He has also remained a towering figure of the Vokkaligas in Karnataka, a community that the BJP has so far failed to penetrate well," he underlined.

Multiple BJP sources said that the matter has not come up for discussion and one source said that the party's candidate for the Rajya Sabha could be discussed later this month.

Another BJP source said that the party was likely to nominate a person who could, based on caste or regional combination, bring political dividends.

"With or without the Rajya Sabha membership, Mr. Gowda's stature does not diminish. Re-nomination is a sensitive issue that needs to be handled carefully. We don't know what the Prime Minister would decide eventually."



H.D. Deve Gowda speaking in the Rajya Sabha during the Budget Session on February 4. PTI

Mahadevappa's 'dog' remark sparks row within party

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Speculation over a possible leadership change in Karnataka after the Budget Session has yet again triggered sharp reactions within the ruling Congress, following controversial remarks by Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa.

Dr. Mahadevappa, a close confidant of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, dismissed talk of a leadership change and took a dig at party colleagues pushing for it, making an analogy to street dogs. His remarks sparked criticism from within the party.

'Leadership is strong'

"There is no question of leadership change. Our leadership is strong," Dr. Mahadevappa said. Criticising some MLAs and Ministers for seeking intervention from the Congress high command, he added, "Who gives directions to the high command? Can you or I do it? Can the tail wag the dog? There is no discussion about any change in leadership."

Referring to a High Court ruling on stray dogs, the Minister said, "The High Court has said catch the street dogs and cage them... Here, the leadership remains strong." When asked to clarify whether his remarks were aimed at those demanding a leadership change, Dr. Mahadevappa replied, "I didn't say anything. I don't know. Leadership is strong here," reiterating that the high command gives instructions and not the other way around.

H.C. Mahadevappa

The comments were widely seen as an indirect reference to Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and MLAs backing him for the Chief Minister's post. Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar were involved in a political tussle in November and December last year, prompting the party high command to intervene and urge both leaders to hold dinner meetings to ease tensions. However, tension has persisted.

On Tuesday, responding to Dr. Mahadevappa's statement, Mr. Shivakumar sarcastically said, "He is a big man and now he is our party high command."

Loyalty of dogs

Former MP and Mr. Shivakumar's brother D.K. Suresh strongly rebutted the comments and said, "Loyal Congress workers are not street dogs... A dog is a loyal animal. A staunch Congressman is like a dog that remembers the debt of its owner and pays it back."

He clarified that he did not know whom Dr. Mahadevappa was referring to, but asserted that committed Congress leaders are "honest dogs". "They never ditch those who supported them. Whether stray or domesticated, a loyal dog repays its master's debt. That is the nature of loyalty," he said.

Despite the exchange of sharp remarks, both Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar have stated that they will abide by the high command's decision on any leadership change.

'CM himself will speak when time comes'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said that any decision on leadership will be taken collectively. "As I have said earlier, the decision has been taken by me, Siddaramaiah and the high command together. This is not any secret or clandestine deal between Mr. Siddaramaiah and me. When the time comes, Mr. Siddaramaiah himself will convey our decision to the people of the State," he said.

'Govt. plots illegally allocated at 5% of market value'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy has accused the Congress government of illegally sanctioning government land at throwaway prices in 31 locations to build Congress Bhavans.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Tuesday, Mr. Narayanaswamy alleged that five sites from the Revenue Department and 26 from local bodies had been sanctioned for the construction of Congress Bhavans.

Most of these lands were civic amenities (CA) sites that were not supposed to be allocated for the construction of political party offices, he alleged.

While the allotment of these lands for political purposes itself was against the norms, the government had indulged in one more irregularity by allotting them at just 5% of their market value, he alleged.

Responding to the BJP leader's allegation, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, also president of the KPCC, said the party was constructing 100 Congress Bhavans as part of the centenary of Mahatma Gandhi's presidency of the Congress.

"Yes, we are using government land for Congress Bhavans. We are allotting 5,000 to 10,000 sq. ft. plots," he said.

He pointed out that during the BJP's tenure, land had been allotted to various trusts in Bengaluru at concessional rates.

He further asked, "If land was not allotted by the BJP government, how was the RSS office constructed?"

TAMIL NADU INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
3rd floor, CMDA Building Tower-II, 'Thalamuthu-Natarajan Maaligai', No.1, Gandhi Irwin Road, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008
Phone: 044-28550255/355/455;
E-mail: soinfra.findpt@tn.gov.in,fininfracell@gmail.com Website: www.tnidb.tn.gov.in

INVITATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT OF PROFESSIONALS

TNIDB is looking for experienced dynamic candidates for positioning in the organization, on contract basis for two posts of Professional Consultants for the Tax Policy Research Unit of Finance Department.

Competitive Salary package aligned with Government/allied sector pay scales, based on qualifications and experience. For further information regarding the detailed qualifications and experience, roles and responsibilities and application format please visit website **https://tnidb.tn.gov.in** under **'Notifications'.**

All filled applications shall be sent by email to **soinfra.findpt@tn.gov.in**, **fininfracell@gmail.com** or through post to the above mentioned address in the prescribed format.

Last date for receipt of application is 26.02.2026

DIPR/1139/Tender/2026 **Chief Executive Officer, TNIDB**

Canara Bank
Cantonment Branch (10406)
No. 109, St. Johns Road, Sivan Chetty Garden, Near B. M. English School, Bengaluru - 560042
cb10406@canarabank.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

SRI NARASIMHA MURTHY was working as a NND agent in Canara Bank Cantonment branch since 28-08-1975. On 15-04-2021 he has given resignation due to health Issues. If the customers have any queries related to their NND accounts, the same should be brought to the notice of the bank within 30 days from the public notice and no claims will be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period.

Place: Bengaluru Authorised Officer
Date: 09/01/2026 Canara Bank

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Zone-2,
Malleshwaram Division, 2nd Cross Road, Jaladarshini Layout, MSR Nagar, Mathikere, Bengaluru - 560054.

No: EE/MLM/KPPP/15/2025-26 Date: 17-02-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

Executive Engineer, Malleshwaram Division, Zone-2, BWCC, Bengaluru invites item rate Tender from registered Contractors in BWCC or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organization for the Works detailed below.

(Standard Bid Documents - KW-3 & KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
1	Comprehensive Development of Works at Subramanya Nagara Surroundings in Ward No. 59 (Old 66), Subramanyanagara. **(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 95.61, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,00,000/-**
2	Construction of New BBMP Building at Atalji Park in Ward No. 55 (Old 45), Malleshwaram. **(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 74,02, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,48,100/-**
3	Annual Maintenance of Re-Asphalting of Roads in Ward No. 54 (Old 36), Mathikere. **(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 68.57, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,37,200/-**
4	Pothole Filling in Ward No. 57 (Old 64) - Rajmahal Guttahalli, Ward No. 58 (Old 65) - Kadu Malleshwara, Ward No. 59 (Old 66) - Subramanyanagara and Ward No. 60 (Old 76) - Gayathrinagara in Malleshwaram Sub Division. **(Call-2) - (ST) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 64.54, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 64,600/-**
5	Additional Work to Repair and Renovation Work of BWCC Building at Malleshwaram 16th Cross, Malleshwaram Sub Division. **(Others) - Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 53.29, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,06,600/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 21-02-2026, 16.30 Hours onwards. 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting on **25-02-2026 at 16.00 Hours. 3)** Last Date and Time for Uploading the Tender Documents: **27-02-2026 upto 16.30 Hours. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **02-03-2026 at 12.00 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **Will be intimated through KPP Portal.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Malleshwaram Division, Zone-2, BWCC.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
PUBLIC (ELECTIONS-II) DEPARTMENT
SECRETARIAT, CHENNAI-600 009.

Tender No.4/2026/749 **TENDER NOTIFICATION**

e-Tenders are invited from reputed Companies / Agencies for rate contract of engaging Vehicles for FST/ SST/VST/ Observers/ Officers/ Zonal Party and inter/ intra State Transportation of EVMs/ VVPATs during General Elections to TNLA, 2026 for a period of one year as per the guidelines/ instructions of the Election Commission of India. The details can be seen in the tender document which can be downloaded free of cost from the websites **https://tntenders.gov.in** and **www.elections.tn.gov.in**

1. Queries from the Companies/Agencies should be raised in the website **https://tntenders.gov.in** by **05:00 P.M. on 20.02.2026.** The reply to the queries of the Companies/Agencies shall be uploaded by this Department by **05:00 P.M** on **21.02.2026** in the website **https://tntenders.gov.in.**
2. The last date for submission of tender document by e-Procurement module – **3.00 P.M. on 25.02.2026.**
3. Technical Bids Opening to ascertain Number of bids received – **03:30 P.M. on 25.02.2026.**
4. Detailed Technical Evaluation by the Tender Evaluation Committee – Will be decided later.
5. Financial Bid Opening - Those bidders who have technically qualified will be informed.
6. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD):- **Rs.5,00,000/-** per Region by online module.

For contact : 044 – 25665327 DIPR/1193/TENDER/2026 **Additional Chief Electoral Officer & Additional Secretary to Government.**

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Hutti-584115, Raichur Dist, Karnataka State, Tele: **08537-275463, 276339**
e-Mail: **material276339@gmail.com,** Website: **www.huttigold.karnataka.gov.in**

TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 35/25-26 Dt: 18.02.2026 (Through KPP Portal only)

Tender is invited by "The I/c. Dy. General Manager (Materials)" for the following Tenders as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Description	EMD in Rs.
1	Supply of MA42 with FF & High frequency Audiometry. **HGML/2025-26/IND0433**	15,000/-
2	Procurement of Tympanometry with Impedance. **HGML/2025-26/IND0432**	14,000/-
3	Supply, installation and Commissioning of Optical Emission Spectrometer along with accessories. **HGML/2025-26/IND0407/CALL-2**	1,67,000/-
4	Supply of various suspension Sets for HGML winders. **HGML/2025-26/IND0328**	65,000/-
5	Supply of 7.00-12 Tyres and tubes for UG pneumatic loaders. **HGML/2025-26/IND0425**	65,500/-
6	Construction of Attendance/cap lamp room at Heera-Buddini Gold Mines. **HGML/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT129**	22,000/-
7	Repairs works at Pai Bhavan. **HGML/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT126**	16,000/-
8	Construction of Mine Manager office at Heera-Buddini Gold Mines - CAT II (A). **HGML/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT131**	49,500/-
9	Construction of rest shelter at UTI Gold Mines. **HGML/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT130**	36,500/-
10	NCS Friction Winder Head Ropes (28mm x 4 Numbers) and Tail Ropes (48 mm x 2 Numbers) Replacement work. **HGML/2025-26/SE0082**	90,000/-

Calendar of events: **(1)** Last date for receipt of tender: **05.03.2026 at 4.00 PM.** **(2)** Opening of Technical Bid on: **07.03.2026 at 10.00 AM.**

For further details interested bidders are advised to log on to website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of undersigned during working hours. For participating in the above tender bidder needs to be registered in KPP Portal.

Sd/- I/c. Dy. General Manager (Materials)

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

8th ANNIVERSARY

Prof. K. Rajaiah
(1939-2018)

You have left a legacy of compassion, love, wisdom and courage. We will always be guided by your golden words of advice and strengthened by your blessings. We cherish every precious moment spent together. Your spirit will live on in our hearts forever.

Deeply missed and mourned by
Latha, Vijay, Ramani, Shravan, Tanmay, family and friends.

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981, 080 - 22071826
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Rate for Karnataka:
Minimum: Rs. 320/- for 2 lines.
Extra line: Rs. 160/-
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For Placing Advertisements Online log on to www.thehinduads.com

DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the schedule property from its owners 1) Surya Mohan Gowda 2) Swathi M Gowda and 3) Amulya M. Gowda – children of Late K C N Mohan. The owners represent that their father Late K C N Mohan had purchased the Schedule Property from Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd., vide Sale Certificate dated 02-02-2018 - document no. GAN-1-05512/2017-18 and subsequent to his death, they along with grandmother Smt. K.S. Saroja had jointly succeeded to the same as absolute owners. Thereafter, a Family Settlement/ Arrangement Deed dated 31-01-2024 - document no. RJN-1-06245-2023-24 was entered into between the surviving legal heirs and the owners have jointly succeeded to the schedule property. As per the settlement of OS No. 2348/2015, Sri. Vikas Biharilal Kukreja and Smt. Priyanka Vikas are entitled for 30% of the entire sale consideration received from the sale of schedule property.

My client intends to avail loan from SBI/any other financial institution/s by mortgaging the schedule property after purchase.

If any person/s or financial institutions have any objections claims, right, title, interest over the schedule property, may file their objections with the undersigned along with documentary proof within FIFTEEN (15) DAYS from the date of publication of this notice. Thereafter, he will proceed to complete the transaction without being liable for any claims put forth thereafter.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing New Municipal No. 65, PID No. 5-1-65, Old No. 2/53, Municipal No. 531/764, situated at 3rd Main Road, Margosa Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore, comes within BBMP limits, BBMP Ward No. 35-Aramane Nagar.

MEASURING - east to west 90 feet & north to south 43 feet, in all measuring 3870 sq feet.

East by: Conservancy Lane, **West by:** 3rd Main or Margosa Road, **North by:** Jididhar Anjanappa's Bungalow, **South by**: Dr. B.K. Ramanna's Bungalow.

Place : Bengaluru
Dated : 18.02.2026

Smt. Renuka R Desai,
Mr. Rohit Desai, Advocates
Manu Law Chambers,
No. 948/1, 2nd Main Road,
Rajajinagar 4th Block, Bengaluru – 560 010.

SC rules out murder by strangulation in 2002 actor death case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in a judgment on Tuesday ruled out murder by strangulation in the death of Telugu actor in 2002.

The court said that, at this belated stage, it would be "difficult" to allege that the cause of death was rape and strangulation, as alleged by the actor's mother.

A Bench of Justices Manoj Misra and Manmohan said there was "overwhelming" ocular and medical evidence of poisoning.

The top court rejected the defence of accidental consumption. The court said abetment, leading to her death, by the purchase of a poison, has been established.

Justice Manmohan said the offence of rape against accused G. Siddartha Reddy, believed to be in a relationship with the actor, was not made out.

The prosecution said Reddy and the actor had entered into a pact to take their own lives. Pratyusha died in hospital while Reddy survived.

Justice Manmohan, who pronounced the judgment in court, held the "surviving partner in a ritual suicide pact is legally culpable".

The court ordered Reddy to surrender in four weeks.

(For those in distress, counselling is available at TeleMANAS-14416)

Karnataka HC quashes BJP's case against Rahul Gandhi

Cong. leader questions legality of the defamation case over advertisements by the KPCC in 2023 describing the then BJP govt. as "40% sarkar"; HC flags lapses by the magistrate court in case

Krishnaprasad
BENGALURU

In a relief to Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the Karnataka High Court on Tuesday quashed the criminal defamation proceedings initiated against him based on a complaint filed in 2023 by the BJP's State unit.

The case was filed for issuing advertisements allegedly with "defamatory" imputation in newspapers during the campaign for the State Assembly elections in 2023, describing the then BJP government as "40% sarkar" and alleging that it had "looted over ₹1,50,000 crore from the people of the State during its 2019-2023 regime".

LoP Rahul Gandhi appearing before a Bengaluru court in the defamation case filed by State BJP unit in June 2024. FILE PHOTO

Justice S. Sunil Dutt Yadav delivered the verdict while allowing a petition filed by Mr. Gandhi, who questioned the legality of the defamation case.

Citing several procedural lapses committed by the magistrate court, the High Court said that though the complainant referred to Mr. Gandhi's tweet on X, sharing the advertisement issued by the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Party (KPCC), the particular tweet was "neither marked as an exhibit during the sworn statement nor supported by producing the mandatory certificate under the Evidence Act." In the absence of marking of the tweet, the summons issued by the magistrate court was "legally deficient" as there was no material before the court against Mr. Gandhi, the High Court said.

The advertisements were issued by the KPCC, through D.K. Shivakumar, who was its president and by Siddaramaiah, as the then LoP in the Assembly. The proceedings against them are pending.

Saregama case: Delhi HC restrains Ilaiyaraaja

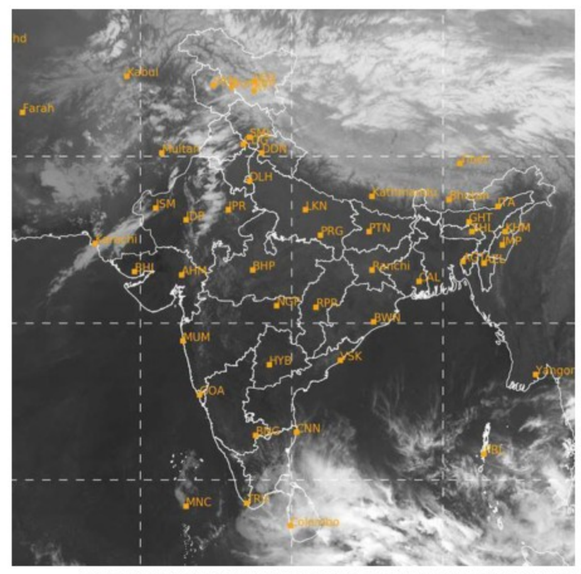
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has passed an interim order in favour of Saregama India Limited, restraining noted music composer Ilaiyaraaja from exploiting copyrighted works claimed by the label in 134 films dating back to 1976.

The order came on February 13, during the hearing on a commercial suit filed by Saregama. The company said the composer issued a legal notice in January 2026, claiming rights over musical works he composed for the films. Citing its past agreements with film producers, Saregama claimed ownership of copyrights on the musical works in those films.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with hailstorm/lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Dense fog likely at isolated places over coastal Andhra Pradesh and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.0	13.0	Kozhikode	—	35.4	25.3
Ahmedabad	—	32.2	18.5	Kurnool	—	34.6	20.2
Aizawl	—	29.8	14.0	Lucknow	—	29.1	12.0
Allahabad	—	31.0	11.1	Madurai	—	33.7	19.8
Bengaluru	—	29.8	17.5	Mangaluru	—	33.1	24.4
Bhopal	—	30.3	14.0	Mumbai	—	31.0	22.4
Bhubaneswar	—	33.0	18.4	Mysuru	—	31.2	17.0
Chandigarh	—	29.2	11.2	New Delhi	—	30.9	12.4
Chennai	—	30.0	22.3	Patna	—	28.1	16.0
Coimbatore	—	32.2	20.2	Port Blair	—	31.4	23.8
Dehradun	—	28.5	10.3	Puducherry	—	29.8	20.4
Gangtok	—	20.7	9.6	Pune	—	34.8	21.7
Goa	—	33.8	21.0	Raipur	—	33.0	16.7
Guwahati	—	30.6	13.6	Ranchi	—	27.8	11.0
Hubballi	—	33.0	17.0	Shillong	—	22.7	9.4
Hyderabad	—	31.2	18.9	Shimla	—	19.6	8.2
Imphal	—	29.0	7.6	Srinagar	—	18.2	0.8
Jaipur	—	29.1	18.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.2	23.1
Kochi	—	31.8	25.8	Tiruchi	—	31.5	20.0
Kohima	—	20.3	8.6	Vijayawada	—	30.6	19.8
Kolkata	—	29.6	17.2	Visakhapatnam	—	30.5	21.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.26	..92	22	... 144	...142	
Bengaluru	...6	..31	21	... 199	...121	
Chennai	...7	6	55	... 176	...159	
Delhi	.11	113	86	... 299	...356	
Hyderabad	.10	..37	45	... 124	...111	
Kolkata	...9	..84	40	... 235	...136	
Lucknow	.11	..42	39	... 258	...158	
Mumbai	.52	150	13	 34	84	
Pune	..—	..95	79	... 257	...202	
Visakhapatnam	...5	..57	16	... 149	...149	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 276 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 25

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Vision 2031 paves a new chapter for Kerala: CM

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the State government's 'Vision 2031' policy perspective will pave the way for the beginning of a new chapter in Kerala's history, one that outlines a road map to transform the State into a knowledge-driven, socially just, and democratically vibrant society by its 75th year of Statehood.

He was delivering the opening address at a seminar, 'Secularism, Democracy and Consultative Government', which marked the culmination of the three-day 'Vision 2031: An International Conference on Development and Democracy' here on Tuesday. He said the Vision 2031 document had evolved into a shared framework for development through democratic consultation.

Director of The Hindu Group, N. Ram; former Chief Justice of Delhi HC, A. P. Shah; former CM of J&K, Farooq Abdullah, and Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan at the 'Vision 31' conference. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Addressing the seminar, former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah said India is facing a major crisis marked by centralisation of power, erosion of truth in public discourse, and communal divisions. He praised Kerala for upholding religious harmony, and for achieving near-elimination of poverty despite "constraints from the Centre".

Highlighting Kerala's achievements on several fronts, N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group, said the State "offers a striking demonstration that social investment and democratic decentralisation can deliver exceptional outcomes even at modest income levels". At the same time, Mr. Ram cautioned against romanticising its achievements as he recalled how former Chief Minister E.M.S. Namboodiripad warned against making too much of the 'Kerala model of development'. Unemployment, a relatively narrow industrial base, and fiscal pressures pointed to some unfinished tasks that had to be addressed.

Lok Sabha MP Kanimozhi, who addressed the gathering through videoconference, called upon the civil society and parties to counter the erosion of democracy, secularism and federal principles.

Legislators begin foreign tour

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Nearly 20 legislators from the ruling Congress in Karnataka left for a tour of Australia and New Zealand on Tuesday night. They are expected to return to Bengaluru on March 3.

Sources said the MLAs met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday and informed him about their tour. Responding to questions about the foreign trip, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said he had no prior information about it. "I have no information on any trip. I learnt about it from the media. I don't know whether it is their personal travel or if someone is sponsoring it," he said.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, AT BENGALURU ORIGINAL JURISDICTION PROBATE CIVIL PETITION NO. 22 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF THE WILL AND LAST TESTMENT OF FR THOMAS MYLADOOR (DECEASED)

BETWEEN
MR. JAMES PAUL .A
Son of Mr. Anthony Swamy
Aged about 46 years
Residing at
4/1-78/72, Netaji Street,
Devadurga Raichur,
Karnataka-584 111
and presently at
Don Bosco Provincial House
Milton Street, Cooke Town,
Bengaluru -560 005
President
The Don Bosco - Bidar
.....PETITIONER

AND

NIL ....RESPONDENT

WHEREAS the Petitioner above named has made a petition dated 26.11.2025 under Part IX (Sections 222, 273, 276, & 300) of the Indian Succession Act of 1925 for grant of probate in respect of the Will and Last Testament of Fr Thomas Myladoor (Deceased). The fixed place of abode of the deceased at the time of his death was Don Bosco Provincial House" Milton Street, Cooke Town, at Bengaluru - 560005, which is in the Jurisdiction of this Hon'ble Court.

Be it known that no caveat has been entered and that the said petition is posted for hearing on the **Twenty Fourth day of March Two Thousand and Twenty Six (24.03.2026)** and all persons claiming to have any interest in the estate of the Deceased may come and see the proceedings before the grant of Probate.

Given under my hand and seal of this the **Fourth day of February Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.**

By order of Hon'ble Court
Assistant Registrar
High Court of Karnataka
Bengaluru-560001

Counsel for the Petitioner :
Vir Anthony Britto
Advocate
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar
II Stage, Bengaluru-560038

Place: Bengaluru Date: 11.02.2026

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, AT BENGALURU ORIGINAL JURISDICTION PROBATE CIVIL PETITION NO. 23 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF THE WILL AND LAST TESTMENT OF FR THOMAS MYLADOOR (DECEASED)

BETWEEN
MR. SAJIMON CHACKO
Son of Mr. Chacko
Aged about 54 years
Residing at
4/1-78/72, Netaji Street,
Devadurga, Raichur, Kamataka 584111
And presently at
Don Bosco Provincial House
Milton Street, Cooke Town,
Bengaluru -560005
President,
The Yadagiri Don Bosco Society
...PETITIONER

AND

NIL ...RESPONDENT

WHEREAS the Petitioner above named has made a petition dated 26.11.2025 under Part IX (Sections 222, 273, 276 & 300) of the Indian Succession Act of 1925 for grant of probate in respect of the Will and Last Testament of Fr Thomas Myladoor (Deceased) The fixed place of abode of the deceased at the time of his death was "Don Bosco Provincial House" Milton Street, Cooke Town, at Bengaluru.

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By order of Hon'ble Court
Assistant Registrar
High Court of Karnataka
Bengaluru-560001

Counsel for the Petitioner :
Vir Anthony Britto
Advocate
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar
II Stage, Bengaluru-560038

Place: Bengaluru Date: 11.02.2026

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through E-procurement system)

Tenders in electronic mode on "PERCENTAGE BASIS" are invited on behalf of Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigama Limited, Bangalore by the Executive Engineer ,VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division No.2, Tumkur in Two tender Document system from eligible contractors for 02 numbers of Construction of Roads and Drain works of Magadi & Chikka nayakanahalli taluk where amount put to tender varies from Rs.63.38 Lakhs to 167.90lakhs. "Details such as submission of bids/tender conditions/Pre-qualification criteria/ /Calender of events/Contractor Reservation/Pre bid meeting and other information related to above works can be obtained through e-portal i.e *kppp*.karnataka.gov.in Intending bidder can access the tender document from 18.02.2026 to 25.02.2026 through e-portal. The authority competent to accept the tenders shall have the right of rejecting all or any of the tenders without assigning any reasons and will not be bound to accept the lowest tender. Corrigendum/addendum will be published in the e-portal. Any further information required may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, VJNL, YP Division,
No.2,Tumkur. Ph: 08162201844,
e-mail: eeypd2tmk@gmail.com

KARNATAKA CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LIMITED
KMF Complex, Dr. M.H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bengaluru-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 fax: 080-25536105 E-mail: kmfengg@gmail.com

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/ Maize Silo- Shikaripur/02118/2025-26 Date: 17-02-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
[Two cover System] [Through KPP Portal only]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites Short Term tender from the eligible manufacturer/ authorised dealer through KPP Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested manufacturers / authorised dealer who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website **https://www.kppp.karantaka.gov.in** and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD (Rs.)	Period of Completion
1	Dismantling of old Silos sheets & Supply, installation, & Commissioning of new sheets for 2 Nos-1500MT capacity Silos and other related works at Cattle Feed Plant Shikaripur	1 Job	3,87,000/-	6-months

(1) Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: **18-02-2026 To 11-03-2026 up to 4.00 PM. (2)** Last date for Tender submission on date: **11-03-2026 up to 4.00 PM. (3)** Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: **12-03-2026 at 4:30 PM.**

Hence forth changes / modification in the tender, It will be uploaded on KPPP portal only

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: EEE/PD/(S)/Stores Officer/2025-26/4194-96 Date: 17.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Mode Only)

KPTCL invites Tenders for "Providing 09 Nos. of security services to Projects Stores, KPTCL, Peenya (Call-2)" coming under the jurisdiction of SEE, Tr(P) Urban Circle, KPTCL, Bengaluru. The Tender will be received through Karnataka Public Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the E-Procurement process can obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in on hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or directly logging on to website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 23.02.2026. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (E), Projects Division (South),
KPTCL, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru – 560009.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
DAVANAGERE DIVISION, DAVANAGERE.
No.EE:PWD:Dvg/AE-3:IFT-44:2025-26 Dated:- 17.02.2026

SHOR TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref : This office tender notification No. IFT-44/2025-26 dated : 17.02.2026

The works under Head of Account 8443-Deposit Contribution 1 work Rs. 250.00 lakhs pertaining to Honnali sub division under the Jurisdiction of PWD, Davanagere division has been called for the tenders from registered Contractors in KPWD for the above works through KPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules.

Tender dates are as mentioned below:

Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 05.03.2026 Time: 16.00

Date & time for opening of Technical Bid 06.03.2026 Time: 16.30

Further details can be obtained from this office in office hours.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/ 745/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD, Davanagere.

Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Special Division
Ramanagara, Bengaluru South Dist.

No. EE/PWD/RMN Spl.Div./TND-24/2025-26 Date : 16.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited in two stage system from the eligible **contractors for 01 work** of **Rs. 500.00 Lakhs** through e-procurement portal as per the Standard bid documents. The eligible contractors can participate in this tender through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Documents may be downloaded from **20.02.2026 to 07.03.2026**. Last date for submission of tender **07.03.2026 upto 16.00 hours.** Date of Pre-bid meeting **02.03.2026 at 11.30 Hours.** Date of opening of Technical bid **09.03.2026 (If possible) at 11.30 hours.** Tender Processing Fees, EMD as per E-Procurement. For more information contact the undersigned during Office Hours.

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
PWD Special Division, Ramanagara
Bengaluru South Dist.

DIPR/SAD/638/SA/2025-26

University Of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore
NAAC A' Accredited,Estate Office, GKVK, Bengaluru-560 065.
No. EO/SPO/kppp/17/2025-26 Dated: 12-02-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Kpp Portal only)

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per Standard Tender Document KG-1 and KG-2, from the reputed firms for the procurement of Equipment's.

The Blank Tender Documents can be down loaded from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. (1)** Last date and time for uploading the tender on **26.02.2026 upto 4:00 p.m. (2)** The Technical Bid will be opened on **28.02.2026 at 10:30 a.m. (3)** The Financial Bid will be opened on **04.03.2026 at 10:30 a.m.** in the Tender Committee Room of Estate Office. Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours and also refer UAS **website: www.usabangalore.edu.in. Help Desk-91-8046010000, + 91-8068948777, support@eprochelpdesk. com.** The University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

Sd/-
ESTATE OFFICER

DIPR/CP/RO5697/AAPL/2025-26

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (MPED&Transport), Ground Floor, Annexe-2 building, N R Square, Bengaluru-560 002.
No:EE(MPED&Transport)/TEND/05/2025-26 Date: 17-02-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) (Two Cover system)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Executive Engineer (MPED&Transport) on the behalf of the Commissioner, Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) invites Proposal (Technical and Financial) for appointing eligible reputed Service Providers for the services as given below.

Sl No.	Name of the Project
1.	Providing Security Services to GBA Head office Zone-2 Bengaluru Central City Corporation building at Hudson Circle For Three Years. **Amount put to Tender: ₹.420.43 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.6,31,000.00**
2.	Providing Security Services to Town Hall and Chief Auditor office Majestic BCCC Zone-2 office For Three Years. **Amount put to Tender: ₹.155.88 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.2,34,000.00**
3.	Providing Housekeeping Services to GBA Head office Zone-2 Bengaluru Central City Corporation building at Hudson Circle For Three Years. **Amount put to Tender: ₹.482.62 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.7,24,000.00**
4.	Providing Housekeeping Services to Town Hail and Chief Auditor office Majestic BCCC Zone-2 office For Three Years. **Amount put to Tender: ₹.179.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.2,69,000.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Availability of IFT/RFP documents in KPP Portal from **18-02-2026** onwards. (2) Last date for receipt of queries is **21-02-2026** upto **3:00** pm in the through KPP Port (3) Date of Pre bid meeting at the office of Joint Commissioner (Zone-2), BCCC, Annex, building-3, 5th floor **23-02-2026** at **3:00**pm (4) Last Date for submission of Proposals **26-02-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (5) Date of Opening of Technical Proposals **27-02-2026** after **4:30** pm. (6) Opening of Financial Proposal will be intimated to the Tenderers through mail/Phone.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
(MPED & Transport)

No gain in bargaining

The Congress, not the DMK, stands to lose more if it frays the alliance

At a time when the opposition to the BJP has become fragmented or weakened across India, the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA) in Tamil Nadu remains the most robust multi-party anti-BJP alliance, largely because of its ideological cohesion in a State with a distinct socio-political ethos and the seamless ability of its constituent parties to transfer votes to allies. Yet, recent developments, where second-rung Congress leaders have either critiqued the DMK or demanded a direct share in power, have stretched the seams of the alliance dangerously to the brink of a fallout between the parties. The arrangement between the SPA's partners has been clear for over a decade – the DMK forms the government with their support, and the alliance benefits collectively in terms of representation at the Centre, State and local levels through vote transfers. This arrangement helped the Congress reap a good harvest of MPs from Tamil Nadu in the 2024 general election. So why have MP Manickam Tagore and All India Professionals' Congress president Praveen Chakravarty begun criticising the DMK, even after the high command asked them not to air such views publicly?

The call for a share in power could be seen as a bargaining ploy to contest more Assembly seats. But the Congress secured a far better strike rate in 2021 (18 of 25 seats) compared to 2016 (eight of 41), suggesting that this limitation was justifiable relative to its support base. Power-sharing would be viable only if the SPA contested on a jointly drafted common minimum programme, or if the Congress had substantively increased its support base in the State, necessitating accommodation. Unlike the VCK or the Left, which have held the DMK-led government to account on issues of labour and caste discrimination despite outside support, the Congress's critiques have been opportunistic and ad hoc, surfacing only after actor Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) has emerged as an oppositional force. If the Congress abandons the SPA for an alliance with the TVK, it would stand to lose the most, sacrificing a crucial INDIA ally that delivered the bloc its highest State tally in 2024. A Congress exit from the SPA will tighten the contest by narrowing the gap between the DMK and the AIADMK (in alliance with the BJP), but many traditional Congress voters, principally opposed to the BJP, are likely to gravitate toward the DMK-led alliance rather than a tie-up with an untested and enigmatic force such as the TVK. It would be a case of being pound-foolish and not even penny-wise. The Congress leadership would do better focusing on alliance cohesion, and working towards resuscitating its moribund organisational structure, rather than rocking the boat in Tamil Nadu.

Front and centre

Front-of-package labelling helps consumers to choose health foods

In a further instalment of its continuing engagement with regulating processed food products, the Supreme Court of India has, once again, staked out for the right of citizens to health. In a recent judgment, a Bench directed the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to consider introducing mandatory front-of-package warning labels on packaged food products high in sugar, salt and saturated fat. Justices J.B. Pardiwala and K.V. Viswanathan directed the FSSAI to file its response to the proposal within four weeks. There is adequate evidence available to associate these sugar, salt and saturated fat additives in processed foods with non-communicable diseases, including diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular diseases, all of which are inching up their way up to epidemic proportions in India. The petitioner, the NGO 3S and Our Health Society, informed the Court that such disclosures would enable consumers to make informed decisions and choices and could help with stemming the tide of rising deaths due to diabetes and heart ailments. Earlier, in 2025, the Court had directed an expert committee under the FSSAI to submit its recommendations on the amendments required to be made to the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020, to implement front-of-package labelling. On the count of holding consultations with all stakeholders across the country, an extension was sought and secured, but in February 2026, the Bench expressed unhappiness at the regulator's compliance report, noting that the exercise undertaken thus far had failed to yield any "positive or good result". One of the elements of contention between the FSSAI and the petitioner was the former's proposal to introduce an Indian Nutrition Rating model, an indigenous system of rating a product; the latter opposed it on the grounds that this was not in line with globally accepted standards.

The Court's persistent intervention on the issue of front-of-package labelling should lean on the massive ultra-processed food industry to implement these universally endorsed safeguards, to inform consumers of the content and additives in the packaged food, to guide choices, ultimately. Non-communicable diseases have already swept through vast swathes of the population in the country: the 2023 ICMR-INDIAB study found that 101 million people in India (11.4% of the population) have diabetes, with an additional 136 million suffering from prediabetes. Other concomitant factors including hypertension (35.5% national average), abdominal obesity (39.5%) and high cholesterol (24%) were also estimated to be high. Introducing front-of-package labelling is an essential part of establishing a continuum of care that begins with prevention.

The new world disorder, from rules to might

Shashi Tharoor

is the fourth-term Member of Parliament (Congress) for Thiruvananthapuram (Lok Sabha), a former Minister of State for External Affairs, and the award-winning author of 28 books, including 'Pax Indica'. He currently chairs the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs

A world that once imagined it had buried the demons of the 1930s now finds them prowling again – less dramatic, perhaps, but no less corrosive. The post-war order, born in San Francisco in 1945, was built on the conviction that law could restrain power, that institutions could discipline states, and that sovereignty was not a privilege granted by the strong but a right inherent in all nations. The speech by United States President Harry S. Truman at the founding of the United Nations (UN) radiated that belief. He spoke as a man who had seen the abyss and was determined that humanity would not return to it. The UN, he insisted, would be the instrument through which nations "settle their differences peacefully", a bulwark against the old world of spheres of influence and predatory might.

His words, on June 26, 1945, might sound startling to many of his successors. "We all have to recognize – no matter how great our strength," he declaimed, "that we must deny ourselves the license to do always as we please. No one nation ... can or should expect any special privilege which harms any other nation ... Unless we are all willing to pay that price, no organization for world peace can accomplish its purpose. And what a reasonable price that is!"

The prevailing atmosphere

Contrast that with the contemporary mood, where the language of international law increasingly sounds like a polite fiction. Analysts often perceive U.S. President Donald Trump's foreign policy posture as one that treats international rules much as Italian drivers treat red traffic lights, less as binding commitments and more as optional tools – useful when they serve your interests, dispensable when they do not. It is not that the U.S. invented unilateralism; great powers have always been prone to exceptionalism, double-standards and bending rules just short of breaking them. But the open embrace of a "might is right" sensibility marks a shift from hypocrisy (which at least paid tribute to norms even while betraying them) to indifference (which does not give a damn about norms). When a major power signals that sovereignty is negotiable, others take note.

If Washington can disregard Venezuela's sovereignty with minimal consequence, what stops Beijing from concluding that Taiwan's status is similarly malleable? Or Moscow from treating Ukraine as a historical correction rather than a sovereign state? Or even New Delhi from deciding that a smaller neighbour's objections are an inconvenience rather than a constraint? The question ceases to be whether international law prohibits aggression but whether the target is powerful enough to raise the costs of it. For decades, the fear of a third world war acted as a grim stabiliser; the horror of total conflict kept lesser conflicts in check. But if the guardrails weaken, the world risks not one great conflagration but a proliferation of smaller, grinding wars – each too limited to trigger global alarm, yet collectively capable of eroding the foundations of peace.

As the rules-based order erodes, raw power is beginning to reshape the global system

An unravelling of multilateralism

This erosion is compounded by the retreat from multilateralism. The Trump administration's declared withdrawal from dozens of international organisations and agreements – ranging from UNESCO to WHO to environmental and arms-control frameworks – signals a deeper scepticism about the very idea of shared governance. The problem is that the 21st century's most urgent challenges are precisely those that no nation can solve alone. Pandemics, climate change, cyber threats, financial contagion – these are "problems without passports" (in Kofi Annan's phrase), indifferent to borders and immune to unilateral solutions. When the world's most powerful state steps back from collective action, the vacuum does not remain empty. Others – most notably China – step in, shaping institutions, norms and standards in ways that reflect their own preferences. The result is not simply a shift in influence but a fragmentation of global governance itself.

We inhabit a world that has become profoundly fluid. It is increasingly difficult for any nation, not only India, to say with certainty where it stands in a shifting geopolitical order. Old certainties have frayed, alliances blur and ambiguity has become the defining condition of our time. History, that indefatigable saboteur of good intentions, continues to complicate the present. Grievances are inherited more reliably than wisdom. Old wars cast long shadows and unresolved injustices continue to poison relations between states. Leaders are asked to negotiate peace while being reminded never to forget past wounds.

Perhaps the most profound obstacle lies in the paradox of power itself. Those entrusted with maintaining global order also possess the greatest capacity to disrupt it. World order rested on their willingness not to do so; this willingness has faded in many cases. The institutions established after the Second World War were noble in conception but unequal in design. They reflected the hierarchies of power prevailing at the time of their creation. Authority was concentrated in the hands of a few, while responsibility was shared by all. This imbalance has consequences. When powerful states act as both guardians and exceptions to the rules, the legitimacy of the system suffers.

What makes this moment especially fraught is that the rule-based liberal international order was never a monolith; it was a patchwork of norms, institutions and habits of cooperation. Its ingredients included sovereign equality, non-aggression, collective security, open trade, human rights and multilateral problem-solving. Each of these has been violated repeatedly – by great powers and smaller states alike. Yet, the order endured because enough states believed that the alternative was worse. Today, that belief is wavering. Sovereignty is breached with increasing brazenness. Non-aggression is honoured in the breach. Collective security is paralysed by vetoes. Trade is weaponised. Human rights are dismissed as ideological. Multilateral institutions are starved of legitimacy and resources.

Institutions may possess statutes and mandates, yet, without political will, their authority remains largely aspirational. When powerful states ignore international law or apply it selectively, institutions lose credibility. Peace cannot be enforced by rules alone. It requires good faith, and good faith is increasingly in short supply.

The danger today

And yet, the order is not dead. It limps, it strains, it disappoints – but it persists. International courts still adjudicate disputes. Peacekeepers still deploy. Trade flows still depend on predictable rules. Middle powers, from Europe to India to South Africa to Canada to Brazil, still invest in multilateralism because they know that without it, they are at the mercy of ruthlessly self-interested hegemons. They accept Dag Hammarskjöld's famous dictum that "the United Nations was not created to take mankind to heaven, but to save humanity from hell". Sometimes the best the world order can do is to prevent things from getting worse.

And yet the question is not whether the old order survives intact; it has already been hollowed out, its norms and institutions subverted. The question is what replaces it: a Sino-centric architecture, a world of competing blocs, a patchwork of issue-based coalitions, or a return to unmediated anarchy?

We are living in an interregnum – the old world fading, the new one unformed. The danger is not that the system collapses overnight, but that it decays slowly, leaving a vacuum filled by opportunism and coercion. The promise of 1945 was that law could tame power. The peril of today is that power may once again tame law. The task for this generation is not to resurrect the past but to prevent the future from sliding into a world where the only real rule is that there are no rules at all.

India's aviation is in need of data-driven oversight

Prerna Rakheja

is an Antitrust and Competition Economist at Bates White, Washington DC

IndiGo, India's largest airline, faced an operational crisis in December 2025, leading to a surge in fares across the country. This episode underscored a broader issue: India is becoming the world's third-largest aviation market without building the data systems required to oversee it.

In this case, regulators quickly stepped in to protect consumer interests. The Ministry of Civil Aviation imposed temporary price caps on domestic flights and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), prompted by the Competition Commission of India, requested average fare data from IndiGo, Air India, SpiceJet and Akasa between December 1-15, 2025, to investigate potential abuse of market dominance.

While this reactive approach protects air passengers in the short term, it highlights a larger regulatory gap. Even with the requested data, regulators may still lack the visibility needed to act effectively. Without a consistent, analytical framework to study fares over time, it becomes difficult to distinguish between a legitimate, demand-driven spike and a surge that crosses into an abuse of market power.

Airline data in the U.S. creates a digital trail

These events are an opportunity to shift the DGCA's role from crisis response to steady oversight by learning from examples of the more mature airline market in the United States. Specifically, the way the U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) collects and publishes airline data.

The BTS maintains the Airline Origin and Destination survey, more commonly known as the DB1B database. Unlike the DGCA, which primarily tracks passenger volumes and freight traffic, the DB1B database publishes ticket-level data, including fares, for a 10% random sample of all domestic tickets sold each quarter since 1995.

This is not a mere academic exercise. By collecting data on actual prices paid, itinerary details such as route flown, and carrier information, the BTS creates a usable digital trail. For India, adopting a similar 10% sampling framework would signal a new era of transparency, expanding the DGCA's role from tracking volumes to monitoring market behaviour. Much like a speed camera on a highway, the objective is not necessarily to issue penalties, but to encourage long-term compliance and maintain market hygiene.

The December 2025 IndiGo crisis highlights India's lack of a data-driven aviation framework and a regulatory gap

The effect of transparency on pricing

Greater transparency also pushes airlines to self-regulate their pricing algorithms. When fare data are open to the public or regulatory scrutiny, carriers are more likely to build ethical guardrails into their revenue management systems, preventing both opportunistic and algorithm-driven price spikes that can trigger public backlash and legal challenges, such as the ongoing Public Interest Litigation before the Supreme Court of India.

The availability of historical pricing data can also strengthen research and policy. For example, over 30 years of US airline data is publicly available through the DB1B database. Academic researchers have used these data to identify the "Southwest Effect" – a phenomenon in the U.S. where the entry of Southwest Airlines, a low-cost U.S. carrier, into a new route leads to a drop in average fares and a corresponding spike in average passenger traffic.

A similar dataset in India can allow regulators to observe competitive behaviour, or the lack of it, across routes, time periods and market structures.

First, comparing fares on different routes. If routes dominated by a single airline consistently show higher fares than those with multiple players, it may indicate market power.

Second, tracking fare changes when competitors enter or exit a route. A sharp rise in fares after a competitor exits, or a drop when one enters, signals that the remaining carriers can exercise market power.

Third, assessing fare behaviour during demand spikes. If an airline raises prices more aggressively on routes where it has a larger market share during holidays or peak periods, it may be leveraging its dominance.

The usual resistance to data transparency stems from concerns over proprietary information, claims that data sharing creates a technical load, and fear of implicit coordination among competitors.

A 10% random sample is reasonable

Airlines might argue that their revenue management algorithms are their "secret sauce" and should be protected. A 10% random sample is a practical middle ground. By design, this framework collects a fraction of the data. This helps to protect the "how", i.e., the proprietary logic and code behind the algorithms while monitoring the "what", i.e., the price at which tickets were sold in the marketplace. And given the limited size of the sample, supplying this data should not pose a significant technical burden.

Critics may also fear that transparency allows airlines to track each other's prices. In the age of real-time data scraping, this is simply the status quo, as airlines already have a good sense of what their competitors are charging. By releasing the 10% sample on a quarterly delay, regulators can reduce the chance of immediate fare alignment while preserving the dataset's usefulness for long-term policy planning.

Thus, the DGCA must pivot from ad hoc fare caps and investigations to a data-first framework. It is time to let the algorithms compete but also let the regulator and the public keep score.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Great Nicobar project

The National Green Tribunal's clearance of the ₹92,000-crore Great Nicobar mega project (February 17) is deeply troubling not merely for its environmental implications but also for what it signals about institutional accountability in matters of public interest. The language of the order — invoking "strategic importance", "adequate safeguards", and finding "no good ground to interfere" — appears less like rigorous judicial scrutiny and more like broad administrative endorsement.

Strategic necessity, however, must be clearly defined and consistently demonstrated. What precisely constitutes "strategic importance", and how does this designation justify irreversible ecological risks? At a time when questions persist about India's strategic posture on critical external challenges — from unresolved concerns regarding Chinese incursions along the border to policy adjustments that appear aligned with U.S. geopolitical pressures — the invocation of strategic imperatives in domestic development decisions demands greater transparency. Strategic importance cannot become a convenient and elastic justification for bypassing environmental prudence, scientific caution, and democratic scrutiny.

Equally concerning is the Tribunal's reliance on assurances of "adequate safeguards". Environmental damage in fragile island ecosystems is not easily reversible. The project also raises serious questions about the rights and welfare of local communities, particularly indigenous groups whose relationship with land and forest is integral to their survival. More broadly, the decision reflects a disturbing trend in which institutions tasked with safeguarding public and ecological interests appear increasingly deferential to executive claims.

Aditya Das,
Bhowali, Uttarakhand

Congress-DMK alliance

The Congress knows pretty well that it cannot win even a single seat in Tamil Nadu without the wholehearted support of the DMK. It would be disastrous for the national party were it to join Vijay's party, the TVK, which has yet to prove its winnability in any election. If the Congress continues to needle the DMK, the DMK leadership should distribute seats meant for the Congress to the DMK's other alliance partners.

Tharcius S. Fernando,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Why Yuvraj Mehta's death was not an accident

Rahul Verma
Independent researcher and sociology educator

On January 16, Yuvraj Mehta, a 27-year-old tech professional, was driving at night when his car veered off the road at a sharp turn and plunged into an unguarded, water-filled pit in Sector 150 of Greater Noida. His death has been described as a tragic accident caused by Noida Authority and builder negligence of safety norms at construction sites. That framing, however, leaves unresolved questions about responsibility and governance.

A governance problem

In urban India, deaths caused by infrastructural failure are seen as unfortunate and incidental. In reality, cities do not witness such deaths, they produce them. When unsafe infrastructure becomes ordinary, harm is no longer unexpected. Data (2023) from the National Crimes Record Bureau shows 1.73 lakh road accident deaths; urban areas account for about 32% of these, with higher per lakh rates than rural areas.

The language of "accident" implies uncertainty. In Indian cities, however, risks tied to neglected roads, exposed wiring, unguarded construction sites, flooded basements, and collapsing public utilities are well documented. Civic complaints and official audits have recorded these conditions for years. Findings from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs show that 70% of cities lack functional drainage audits, which helps explain why such risks go unaddressed.

Urban life is shaped by an everyday expectation that people adjust to risk. They slow down, choose routes carefully, avoid certain stretches during the monsoon, and learn to live with danger as routine. Over time, this shift places the burden of safety on individuals rather than institutions, even though the 74th Constitutional Amendment was meant to devolve urban governance, with only four of 18 functions effectively transferred.

This is not simply a failure of intention; it is a failure of priorities. Cities invest heavily in visible symbols of development, such as flyovers, expressways, and metro corridors. By contrast, the infrastructure that supports daily life draws far less attention. Footpaths, drainage networks, and electrical safety rarely attract urgency because they do not photograph well. Over time, this creates cities where everyday movement carries hidden risks.

This pattern becomes especially clear in places shaped by aspiration. In Delhi's Karol Bagh, a dense coaching hub associated with educational mobility, repeated episodes of monsoon waterlogging have exposed the lethal consequences of infrastructural neglect. In 2024, three students drowned in a flooded basement library that had already been flagged by audits by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. These basement rooms, where students live and study, are illegal yet widely tolerated. So, these deaths, explained away as seasonal misfortune, are, in fact, the result of regulatory failure and administrative indifference.

What connects such cases to Mehta's death is governance, which operates in similar ways across cities. Risks are known, violations are normalised, and responsibility is fragmented. Safety is consistently treated as secondary to speed, expansion, and appearance.

In urban India, deaths caused by infrastructural failure are seen as unfortunate and incidental. In reality, cities do not witness such deaths, they produce them

No accountability

When negligence leads to loss of life, responsibility disperses quickly, as multiple arms of the urban state enter the scene after the fact. Municipal bodies, public works departments, contractors, inspectors, and emergency services all appear in the aftermath. Each is responsible for a fragment of the system and none is accountable for the whole. In Mehta's case, the Noida Authority was responsible for oversight of the construction site, while police and fire services delayed their response for nearly 90 minutes before the State Disaster Response Force handled recovery.

Committees are formed, inquiries are announced and junior officials are suspended, as seen in Noida. The performance of action takes the place of accountability, as reflected in recent cases flagged by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) where accountability has largely stopped at junior officials despite wider systemic failures.

Mehta's case unsettles the belief, common in many cities, that education and professional status offer protection from everyday urban risk. In reality, vulnerability cuts across social and occupational categories. White-collar workers working extended hours and students living in basements and preparing for competitive exams navigate the same unsafe urban environments.

Negligent infrastructure rarely provokes sustained moral outrage because responsibility has no clear face. Instead, harm takes shape gradually, as repairs are delayed, inspections are missed, and small administrative failures are allowed to pile up.

Public grief is real, but it often settles quickly into expressions of sorrow and promises of inquiry. In the Noida case, the government has ordered re-inspections of construction sites. Without deeper change, mourning turns into a ritual that absorbs failure rather than questioning it. Deaths like these need to be understood as political events, rooted in governance choices that favour visible development while safety recedes into the background.

The way forward demands three concrete steps: RTI-mandated urban risk registers linking citizen complaints to 30-day mitigation deadlines, quarterly CAG-style audits of preventable urban deaths with ministerial accountability, and independent urban safety commissions empowered under the 74th Amendment to enforce binding standards across States and municipalities.

A Delhi move by the 'Grand Mufti'

How Aboobacker Musliar reaffirmed his position without taking a partisan stand

STATE OF PLAY

Abdul Latheef Naha
abdul.naha@thehindu.co.in

The recent meeting between Kanthapuram A.P. Aboobacker Musliar, Kerala's prominent Sunni leader and general secretary of the All India Jamiyyathul Ulama, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi was no routine courtesy call.

The timing was significant: held ahead of Ramzan, the meeting also came just ahead of the Kerala Assembly elections and during the centenary year of the Samastha Kerala Jamiyyathul Ulama, the State's largest body of traditional Islamic scholars. In this context, it appeared less about the "Grand Mufti" asserting his religious stature or extracting concrete assurances from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government and more about carefully calibrated optics.

The meeting reinforced Mr. Aboobacker Musliar's standing as a powerful socio-political force within the Muslim community. In a State crowded with leaders claiming influence, his stature remains distinctive – not only within Kerala but also beyond it, where he is known as Sheikh Abubakr Ahmad.

The public relations exercise mattered for Mr. Modi too. Both the leaders shared multiple photographs and exchanged warm words on social media.

Mr. Aboobacker Musliar suggested that the meeting marked the capstone of his 16-day Kerala Yatra under the slogan "with humanity," during which he interacted with people across social and political divides. He indicated that he shared the concerns and experiences gathered during that tour, including issues affecting minorities, with Mr. Modi. Yet little is known about the Prime Minister's response to these concerns or any substantive outcomes. The half-hour interaction, by all accounts, was cordial.

In Kerala, reactions to the meeting were predictably divided. The 87-year-old Sunni scholar has been lauded for reaching out to the Prime Minister and for highlighting the concerns of minority communities, essential during a time of growing polarisation. But he has also been widely condemned for his remarks to the Urdu media, saying Muslims in India have been experiencing no major problems under the BJP government. This has been seen by many as a way of softening criticism of the government's policies, widely viewed as unsettling to minorities. Among his critics were proponents of "political Islam," a group he recently described in a resolution as a major threat to communal harmony in Kerala. His supporters were quick to defend him, however, arguing that leaders like him must exercise caution and strategic restraint, particularly in statements to the media.

Mr. Aboobacker Musliar is known for his diplomacy in socio-political circles. Though he has often drawn sharp criticism for statements upholding orthodoxy, he has never made his political stance explicit. During elections, his prime-time messages frequently convey the sentiment, "we will help those who help us."

Even his recent call for a reunification of the Samastha Kerala Jamiyyathul Ulama – popularly known as Samastha – fits this pattern. The call – less a suggestion and more a moral imperative – is unlikely to make any major impact in Kerala's socio-political firmament, despite being welcomed by the rival Samastha faction and the Indian Union Muslim League thanks to the respect he has earned through decades of restraint. The rival Samastha faction commands greater numerical strength and operates with its own political calculations.

Publicly, Mr. Aboobacker Musliar has maintained equal distance from all parties and fronts, but the Samastha faction he leads is widely recognised for supporting the Left Democratic Front in Kerala. The participation of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Opposition Leader V.D. Satheesan in the grand finale of his Yatra in Thiruvananthapuram on January 16 testified how much the religious leader is sought after by the two major fronts in Kerala. Both fronts have been vying to get the support of Mr. Aboobacker Musliar and his Sunni group, but he has mastered the art of remaining non-committal.

Ultimately, the Delhi meeting was less about immediate political gain and more about reaffirming position. By engaging Mr. Modi without surrendering his posture of equidistance, Mr. Aboobacker Musliar has reminded both allies and adversaries that neither his leadership nor his Sunni faction can be ignored in Kerala.

Lower beedi taxes are short-term gain but long-term pain

Beedis are taxed much lower than cigarettes but they pose serious health risks, in many cases exceeding those of cigarettes

DATA POINT

Devyanshi Bihani

If increasing cigarette taxes is a public health measure to discourage smoking, then lowering beedi taxes to 'protect' rural workers ignores the long-term cost to their lives. While most tobacco products are taxed at the highest Goods and Services Tax (GST) slab of 40%, beedis are taxed at just 18%, making them significantly cheaper than cigarettes and other forms of tobacco. The latest tax rates became effective this month.

Several government reports affirm that beedis are no less lethal than cigarettes. In fact, studies quoted in reports suggest that cancer incidence is often higher among beedi smokers. Given that cancer treatment costs three times more than other ailments – even in public hospitals – capping beedi taxes is a short-sighted subsidy.

A critical distinction between beedi and cigarette consumption lies in demographics. Data suggest that there is a substantial overlap between the labour force that rolls beedis and the primary consumer base. While cigarette smokers lack a defining demographic profile, beedi consumption is confined to a much more specific socio-economic segment.

Data from the National Family Health Survey show that beedi smoking is most pronounced among older rural men from the poorest 20% of the population. So, keeping beedi taxes low may enable workers to save a few coins in their youth, only for those savings to be eroded by the exorbitant cost of healthcare in later years.

Tobacco use in India is overwhelmingly concentrated among men. As of 2019-21, about 13.3% of men smoked cigarettes, while 7.8% smoked beedis. Among women, smoking rates were around 0.1% or lower. Beedi smoking was almost twice as prevalent in rural areas (8.3%) compared to urban areas (4.5%) among men **(Chart 1)**.

While beedi smokers represent a relatively smaller share of the population than cigarette smokers, their frequency of consumption is significantly higher. Data reveal a stark divide: over 80% of beedi smokers consumed more than five sticks daily, whereas over 70% of cigarette smokers consumed fewer than five **(Chart 2).** So, an important distinction is that beedi policy should not just look at the number of people smoking; it needs to look at how much they are actually smoking.

The divide is more pronounced across education and age. While cigarette smoking is distributed relatively evenly across all schooling levels, beedi use is heavily concentrated among those with the lowest education levels. While younger and middle-aged men largely prefer cigarettes, beedi consumption is disproportionately prevalent among the older population.

Also, while there is almost no caste-based difference in cigarette smoking, beedi use shows a slight shift. Over 15% of the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) populations smoke cigarettes, which is similar to the share among the general category. With beedis, however, the numbers tilt slightly: 10.6% of the SC population smokes them, compared to 7% in the general category.

The economic disparity in tobacco choice is stark: while wealth has little impact on cigarette consumption, it is the primary driver of beedi use. Among India's poorest households, the share of beedi and cigarette smokers is nearly identical (around 14-15%). However, as household wealth increases, beedi consumption plummets. In the richest households, while cigarette use remains steady at 11.5%, beedi consumption drops to just 2.1% **(Chart 3)**.

The 2022 Report on Tobacco Control in India indicates that beedi smoking poses serious health risks, in many cases exceeding those of cigarettes. The report highlights striking differences in respiratory risk: beedi smokers are 2.87 times more likely to suffer from asthma, compared to 1.82 times for cigarette smokers.

Cancer risks show a similar pattern. A Mumbai cohort study found that beedi smokers faced a higher risk of all cancers than cigarette smokers, with particularly elevated risks for lung and laryngeal cancers. Tuberculosis mortality is also more severe, with beedi smokers facing 2.6 times the risk of death. "Poor people who are the main consumers of beedis end up spending more on health care," said health economist Rijo John. "That is only going to increase the existing inequality between the poor and the rich."

The Global Adult Tobacco Survey 2016-17 (GATS-2) shows that the average monthly expenditure of Indians on tobacco rose for both cigarette and beedi users, but for very different reasons. Daily smokers spent about ₹1,192 per month on cigarettes, up from ₹668 in 2009-10 (GATS-1), and spent ₹284 per month on beedis, up from ₹156, after adjusting for inflation.

For cigarettes, this increase was largely price-driven, the survey argued. The number of cigarettes smoked per day did not rise significantly between GATS-1 and GATS-2, indicating that higher spending reflects higher taxes and prices, rather than higher consumption. On the other hand, the number of bidis smoked per day increased significantly between the two surveys, driving up overall expenditure. This suggests that tax policy has been effective in containing cigarette consumption, but not beedi use.

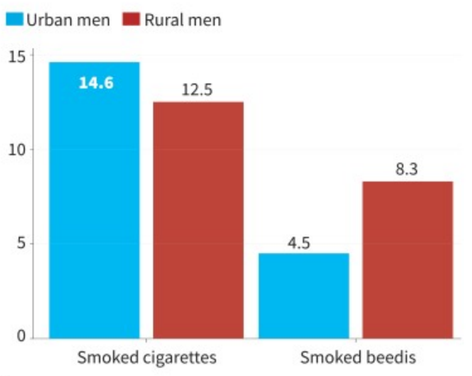
John said specific excise is considered a better form of taxation in regulating consumption. "If the tax is levied solely on the basis of the quantity consumed, we pay the same tax whether the beedi is sold at a lower price or at a higher price by the manufacturer. This directly discourages consumption," he said.

No smoke without harm

The data for the charts were sourced from the National Family Health Survey-5, the Global Adult Tobacco Survey Second Round India (2016-2017) and the Report on Tobacco Control in India (2022)

Many among labour force that roll beedis also consume them

CHART 1: The percentage of men aged 15-54 who smoked cigarettes and beedis across urban and rural populations as of 2019-21



- *Over 80% of beedi smokers consumed more than five sticks daily, whereas over 70% of cigarette smokers consumed fewer than five*
- *The economic disparity in tobacco choice is stark: while wealth has little impact on cigarette consumption, it is the primary driver of beedi use*

CHART 2: Distribution of male smokers by the number of units consumed per day as of 2019-21

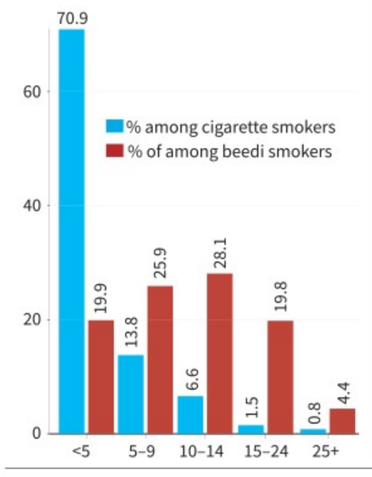
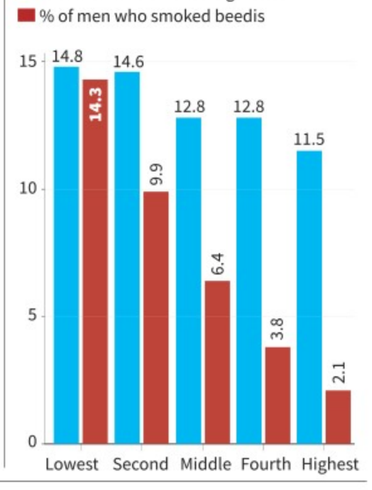


CHART 3: The percentage of men who smoked cigarettes and beedis across wealth quintiles as of 2019-21



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 18, 1976

World recognition for small savings drive

New Delhi, Feb. 15: India has been specially invited by the United Nations to attend a 10-day workshop in Colombia on the mobilisation of personal savings in developing countries. Mr. R.G. Khedekar, National Savings Commissioner, is representing India at the workshop.

The seminar is intended for the South American countries, but the invitation to India is in recognition of its success in enlisting the voluntary co-operation of the various agencies and building up the image of small savings as people's movement, according to an official press release.

There are nearly 2,00,000 volunteers in the country engaged in mopping up small savings. They include students at the schools and university level who go to slum areas in cities and to the villages, women social workers, trade union workers and others.

Saving deposits in India aggregated to Rs. 3,575 crores upto Match 1976 and were the highest for any thrift organisation in the country. Last year alone, the deposits amounted to Rs. 327 crores. These savings accounted for nearly 30 per cent of the internal public debt of the country. India offers the largest variety of savings schemes to the people and some of these like the protected savings scheme for low income groups are unique in the world.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 18, 1926

Finding work for disabled ex-service men

Rugby, Feb. 17: In both Houses of Parliament yesterday the problem of finding work for some 32,000 disabled ex-service men, who are still unemployed in this country, was raised. Government cooperation was urgently solicited in an effort which is now being made to secure the final absorption of these men. A resolution suggesting that Government contractors should be confined, save in exceptional circumstances, to employers whose work-people include a percentage of disabled men, were sympathetically received by Ministers. It was stated that up to the present, efforts to secure employment of disabled men in England had resulted in three hundred seventy thousand disabled men being employed by twenty-eight thousand employees.

From Page One

Political leaders must foster fraternity: SC

Chief Justice Kant said the petition has raised a "very serious issue" even as Mr. Sibal pointed out that the public statements have become increasingly "toxic".

Mr. Sibal highlighted the "normalisation of constitutionally unbecoming speeches by holders of high public offices". He said these statements were not merely political rhetoric, but have weaved their way into the administrative and law enforcement establishments.

Chief Justice Kant asked whether party constitutions did not have any clauses to control public conduct and speeches of their leaders.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi, the third judge on the Bench, said the public have an expectation that "democratic entities would live up to the constitutional ethos and values".

The petition flagged statements, emanating from sitting Chief Ministers and holders of high public offices, which exemplify how constitutional and legal authority was used to legitimise discriminatory hostility. It drew attention to statements by senior bureaucrats and police officers that "reinforce exclusion, humiliation, or collective blame". It underscored that holders of public office and senior executive authorities who indulge in a continuing pattern of derogatory speech were not ordinary speakers.

"Their words carry the imprimatur of the State, influence administrative action, shape public perception, and can have a chilling or exclusionary effect on vulnerable communities, even in the absence of direct incitement or hate speech... No structured guidance or framework clarifying how constitutional morality applies to the public speech of constitutional functionaries. This vacuum has allowed discriminatory and derogatory speech," the petition pointed out.

"Let this not be a populist exercise. It should be a contemplative and constitutional exercise. We need to take an objective approach," Justice Bagchi addressed Mr. Sibal.

Indo-French ties a force for global stability: PM

It sent a positive message about health for the youth, in a city which hosts marathons, the Ministry of External Affairs said. Mr. Macron paid tribute to the victims of the 26/11 terror attacks at Mumbai's Taj Mahal Palace hotel. "In the face of terrorism, unity and determination," he said.

Mr. Macron had a cinema-themed lunch with a few film personalities, including Anil Kapoor, Manoj Bajpayee, and Niraj Ghaywan. "Alongside the legends of Indian cinema. Culture brings us together," he posted on X. He is expected to meet investors in Mumbai on Wednesday morning before heading to Delhi.

Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron launched the India-France Year of Innovation and the India-France Innovation Network, with a cultural programme at the iconic Gateway of India to commemorate the launch. In a first for the private sector, Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron virtually inaugurated the H125 Helicopter Final Assembly Line at Vemagal, Karnataka, in the presence of the Defence Ministers from both the countries.

The Prime Minister also announced the launch of three new centres: the Indo-French Centre for AI in Health, Indo-French Centre for Digital Science and Technology, and the National Centre of Excellence for Skilling in Aeronautics. "These are not just institutions, but future-building platforms," he said.

EC holds meet, reviews poll readiness in Assam

Most political parties seek an election in not more than two phases; CPI(M) urges panel to ensure an error-free voters' list, flagging the 'extraordinary volume of deletions' during Special Revision

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, fifth from left, and other officials hold meetings with recognised national and State political parties in Guwahati on Tuesday. @ECISVEEP X

Most political parties in Assam have urged the Election Commission of India (EC) to hold the State's forthcoming Assembly election in not more than two phases.

The full Bench of the EC, headed by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, reviewed the State's poll preparedness in Guwahati on Tuesday. The panel held meetings with delegations of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Congress, and other political parties.

Mr. Kumar held the review meeting with senior police and State election officers, including Chief Electoral Officer Anurag Goel, in the presence of Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi.

Among the other political parties were the All India United Democratic Front, Asom Gana Parishad, Bodoland People's Front, United People's Party Liberal, Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M), and the Aam Aadmi Party. These parties invariably favoured the conduct of the elections, expected by April, in a single phase or two phases.

They also suggested steps to ensure a peaceful conduct of the polls. The EC delegation, which arrived on Monday, is expected to assess the Special Revision of electoral rolls.

Earlier, the Assam unit of the CPI(M) had urged the EC to ensure an error-free voters' list.

In a memorandum submitted to Mr. Kumar, the party said official data relating to the Special Revision showed that 35,94,983 claims and objections were received across the State. Of these, 12,97,796 were filed under Form-7 seeking deletion of names.

The party pointed out that 10,63,647 such objections and 5,86,146 new inclusions under Form-6 were accepted.

"While deletions on legitimate grounds are part of any revision, the extraordinary volume and high acceptance rate of deletion, warrant careful scrutiny to ensure that the Constitutional guarantee of franchise under Article 326 has not been compromised through procedural infirmities or coordinated misuse," the CPI(M) said.

Assam has 126 Assembly seats. The term of the current Assembly will expire on May 20.

The 2016 and 2021 Assembly election, won by the BJP-led alliance, were held in two and three phases, respectively.

Mamata terms EC 'Tughlaqi', backs suspended officials

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Mamata Banerjee

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday dubbed the Election Commission (EC) as "Tughlaqi Commission", and said her government would extend support to the officials being targeted by the EC.

"What is the reason for suspending the EROs? You ask the EROs who were suspended, what is their crime, what is their fault?" the Chief Minister asked.

In communications dated February 15, the EC asked West Bengal Chief Secretary Nandini Chakravorty to ensure disciplinary proceedings against the seven officials for "serious misconduct" during the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) in the State. The State government not only suspended the officials but as per the directive of the EC, registered a First Information Report (FIR) against five of the seven officials.

During the press conference, the Chief Minister claimed, "We are forced to take action because the commission told us to. We are with the officials." She also said the seven suspended officers would do other work apart from election work.

Ms. Banerjee launched a scathing attack on the EC, referring to the constitutional body as "Tuglaqi commission", on several occasions working at the behest of a political party. By referring to Tughlaqi or Tuglaq, the Trinamool Congress chairperson was referring to Delhi sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq who was known for whimsical decisions.

India, France renew defence cooperation for 10 years, call to boost military partnership

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Expanding ties: French Defence Minister Catherine Vautrin arrives at the HAL airport in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

India and France renewed their defence cooperation agreement for another 10 years on Tuesday at the sixth India-France Annual Defence Dialogue in Bengaluru.

At the meeting, co-chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Minister of the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs of France Catherine Vautrin, India asked France to increase "indigenous content" in the Rafale by up to 50%, and also expand the Rafale's maintenance, repair and overhaul facility in India.

The cooperation agreement was signed by India's Defence Secretary and France's Deputy Director General for International Relations and Strategy. Besides, both countries announced Reciprocal Deployment Officers at Indian Army and French Land Forces establishments.

The two Ministers discussed a range of bilateral security and defence issues, including priority areas for co-development and co-production of equipment.

The Defence Ministry said the two leaders emphasised the need for a closer defence partnership, connecting industries of both nations, especially in the field of niche technology.

It said they reaffirmed the commitment to enhance military-to-military cooperation as a key pillar of the strategic partnership.

India has asked France to increase 'indigenous content' in Rafale jets and expand MRO facility

Mr. Singh said the recent India-EU Security and Defence Partnership marked a significant step in deepening the collective engagement.

"Both Ministers agreed to leverage this framework, both bilaterally and in the wider European context for tangible outcomes that will strengthen regional stability, enhance joint capabilities, and reinforce the enduring Indo-French strategic alignment," the Ministry said.

An MoU on Joint Venture was also signed for the manufacturing of Hammer missiles in India between the Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Electronics Limited and Executive Vice President, Safran Electronics and Defence.

Mr. Singh emphasised that India has been the first responder and net security provider for countries in the Indian Ocean Region and always extends assistance to them in the defence, security and maritime domains to augment their capabilities and ward off any adversary.

On terrorism, he said that Pakistan has a long history of nurturing, nourishing, and promoting cross-border terrorism to create disturbance and violence in India. "This has created a serious threat to peace in the region," he said.

Tina Ambani skips ED summons for second time

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Reliance Group chairperson Anil Ambani's wife Tina Ambani skipped the Enforcement Directorate (ED) summons for the second time on Tuesday.

The former actor, summoned in connection with a money laundering case, did not appear before the agency on February 10, following which she was issued the fresh notice.

Once she deposes, Tina Ambani will be questioned and her statement will be recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, officials said.

Anil Ambani has also been asked to depose before the agency on Wednesday, for the second time as part of the investigation linked to Reliance Group companies.

Politics, security will prevail in how nations make choices: Jaishankar

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
MUMBAI

S. Jaishankar and Devendra Fadnavis at the Global Economic Cooperation Conference in Mumbai on Tuesday. ANI

Political and strategic considerations will overshadow economic ones in the choices that countries make going forward, Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the Global Economic Cooperation 2026 summit organised by the Future Economic Cooperation Council, Mr. Jaishankar asserted that the world had entered a volatile and uncertain period, "possibly the most turbulent in living memory".

"Long-standing assumptions and expectations have now been questioned," he said. "Key dimensions are transforming simultaneously, be they political, strategic, economic or technological. Solutions lie in de-risking and diversifying across multiple dimensions. This approach is increasingly visible in the policies of nations as much as in the choices of enterprises."

'India is engaging international partners more intensively,' says Jaishankar

"Economics will give way to politics and security when it comes to making choices, and technology will be even more transformative than ever before," Mr. Jaishankar said.

The Minister explained that India's response was to further build national capabilities, address growth challenges comprehensively, and deal with both short-term issues and long-term prospects.

"The reform express will continue to roll on," Mr. Jaishankar asserted. "This has implications both on the supply and the demand side. From a position of strength, India is engaging international partners more intensively. This is demonstrated in recently concluded trade deals. We will also be more salient in global production, services, technology, skills, and talent."

Changing world order

He underscored six notable features of the current international scenario. The first, he said, is that the United States is determined to re-industrialise at any cost, and the second is that China's manufacturing and export focus continues unabated and might even expand. The third and fourth features are that tech competition is intensifying and polarising, and energy trade flows are being "redefined".

The fifth and sixth features of the global world order, Mr. Jaishankar said, are that new mindsets are encouraging greater risk-taking, and that migration and mobility are becoming contentious issues.

(The reporter is at the GEC 2026 summit on the invitation of the Future Economic Cooperation Council.)

Reddy loses MLA post with false claim of 'nil' tax dues when he owed over ₹1.3 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Declaring "nil" tax dues in the assets and liabilities statement filed with his nomination papers, despite owing ₹1.3 crore in property tax arrears since 2018, cost S.N. Subba Reddy his MLA post.

This false declaration is one of the main reasons based on which his election from the Bagepalli constituency was declared invalid and was set aside by the High Court of Karnataka in its February 16 verdict while terming his action of making false declaration as "corrupt practice" under Section 123(2) of the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951.

"False statement or a false declaration, that too made on oath, inherently carries with it corrupt, deceitful, dishonest and fraudulent intent, which once proved, neither requires further probe of its innocence nor the need of testing the same through the lens of substantiality," observed Justice M.G.S. Kamal in his verdict.

Ceases to be MLA

With this verdict, Mr. Reddy ceases to be a MLA unless the Supreme Court stays this verdict as the High Court had declined to keep its verdict in abeyance to enable him to approach the apex court.

Apart from this false disclosure, the court also found that Mr. Reddy had neither disclosed his sources of income nor the details of his business entities/concern - R and R Bar and Restaurant; Bhagini Residency; Srinivasa Wines; Bhagini Palace; Wholesale Liquor Proprietorship Concern - and their corresponding current account balance details. Similarly, there is no disclosure with regard to business being run by his wife.

The court also found that he had not declared some of the land besides not disclosing nature of some of the land as he had declared them as "agriculture land" even though they were converted for non-agricultural purposes before the filling of nomination papers.

"It is one thing to say that for a candidate like Mr. Reddy, who owns assets worth several hundred crores, dues of this nature are insignificant. But it is another thing to view the seriousness of the false declaration, declaring dues as 'nIL' by a candidate who is going to occupy high public office for the third time. It is in this perspective, a declaration of municipal property tax dues to be 'nil' when indeed they are due and liable to be paid, which impacts the election process," the court observed.

Meanwhile, the court declined to declare C. Muniraju, defeated BJP candidate who had questioned Mr. Reddy's election, as returned candidate.

The court said it it is not possible to presume and form an opinion that all 19,179 votes, which was the victory margin, would have gone in favour Mr. Muniraju when there were 13 other candidates in the fray.

APPEAL

Avanthiga Sri is 6 years old suffering from "Acute Myeloid Leukemia" High Risk. She needs to undergo Chemotherapy followed by an Allogenic Bone Marrow Transplantation at **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai**. The total expenditure is **Rs.16,00,000/-**. His father is daily wage earner with poor income and they cannot meet the hospital expenditure. Kindly help this child. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged**. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/M.O/ NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail ID is requested.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 31523781/ 7338978027.**
E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.
Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org. **WWS**

Global cooperation is crucial to tackle AI bias and risks, says PM

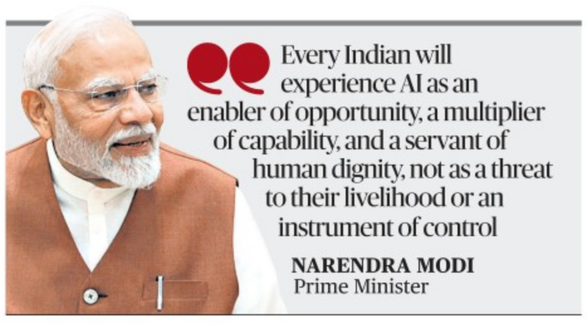
While AI may enhance human capabilities, the ultimate responsibility for decision-making must remain with humans, stresses Modi; India is working to create diverse datasets that represent its plurality and accommodate regional languages, he adds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that artificial intelligence (AI) now stood at "a civilisational inflection point" of expanding human capability but would test social foundations if left unguided. He said the technology must be used to accelerate global development while remaining deeply human-centric.

The Prime Minister made this observation in a text interview to the news agency Asian News International (ANI) as the India AI Impact Summit gets under way in India, the first country of the Global South to host such an event.

Mr. Modi spoke on the Indian government's AI initiatives, saying that through the IndiaAI Mission, "we are ensuring a code that reflects our values, serves our people and positions India as a responsible AI leader for the world".



> Every Indian will experience AI as an enabler of opportunity, a multiplier of capability, and a servant of human dignity, not as a threat to their livelihood or an instrument of control
>
> **NARENDRA MODI**
> Prime Minister

He referenced some of the initiatives taken by India for addressing its own issues. "Leveraging AI mindfully, with a strategic lens, helps address deep developmental challenges while creating entirely new economic opportunities, enabling inclusive growth, bridging the urban-rural divide and expanding access to opportunity. In healthcare, AI is already delivering impact," he said.

He mentioned the use of AI-based solutions in the field of education and health, and by organisations such as Amul leveraging the technology to reach 36 lakh women dairy workers by providing guidance on cattle health and productivity.

He conceded that "concerns regarding bias and limitations in AI remain deeply relevant", especially related to gender and socio-economic background. He added that tackling the issue required global cooperation. "Our diversity – linguistic, cultural, regional – means that AI bias can manifest in ways that might not be obvious in Western contexts," he said, adding that India was beginning to address this more "systematically" with the focus on "creating diverse datasets that represent India's plurality, greater emphasis on AI development in regional languages, and growing research on fairness and bias in Indian academic institutions and tech companies".

Staying prepared

Addressing concerns over the changing nature of employment especially in the white collar and information technology sectors due to AI, he said that the "fundamental shift is that AI isn't replacing the IT sector. It is transforming it." He said that "preparation is the best antidote to fear", and his government had launched "one of the most ambitious skilling initiatives in the world".

"We're not approaching this as a future problem but we're treating it as a present imperative," he said. On the question of safety, the Prime Minister said that global cooperation was needed to ensure that "while AI may enhance human capabilities, the ultimate responsibility for decision-making must always remain with human beings".

"My vision for AI in Aatmanirbhar Bharat rests on three pillars: sovereignty, inclusivity, and innovation. My vision is that India should be among the top three AI superpowers globally, not just in the consumption of AI but in creation of models," he said.

"Every Indian will experience AI as an enabler of opportunity, a multiplier of capability, and a servant of human dignity, not as a threat to their livelihood or an instrument of control. Aatmanirbhar Bharat in AI means India writing its own code for the digital century, and through the IndiaAI Mission, we are ensuring that the code reflects our values, serves our people, and positions India as a responsible AI leader for the world," he said.

IT Minister apologises for summit troubles; Kharge slams 'mismanagement'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday apologised for the difficulties faced by attendees on the opening day of the India AI Impact Summit even as Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge criticised the Modi government for the "utter chaos and rank mismanagement".

Addressing a press conference at Bharat Mandapam, the summit venue, Mr. Vaishnaw said the turnout on Monday was "phenomenal", and assured participants that corrective steps had been taken to ensure a smoother experience in the coming days.

More than 70,000 people attended the summit on the first day, he said. "This is the biggest AI summit in the entire world. The response is phenomenal. The energy is palpable. We can see the organisation is very smooth now. If anybody faced any problems yesterday, we apologise for that," Mr. Vaishnaw said. A "war room" had been set up to address grievances and operational issues, he added.

'Utter chaos'

Earlier, in a post on X, Mr. Kharge said that what could have been a global showcase of India's digital capabilities had turned into "utter chaos" due to mismanagement.

"What could have been a showpiece AI Summit for the entire world demonstrating the digital & AI capabilities of India, has reportedly turned into utter chaos and rank mismanagement by this 'PR hungry' government!" Mr. Kharge said on X.

He said founders, exhibitors and visitors faced distress because of security restrictions ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit (for the inauguration), and alleged that basic facilities such as food and water were lacking. He also cited reports of stolen products, failed digital systems, and restrictions on personal electronic devices.

"It is extremely unfortunate that, our country has to suffer this global embarrassment due to the incompetency of our own government. Perhaps the Modi govt should learn from the Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS), which is an annual feature, in smoothly organising such large-scale digital & tech congregations," the Congress chief posted.

The opening day of the summit saw packed halls, long queues and confusion over entry instructions, with mobile data connectivity also proving unreliable at the venue. Heavy footfall led to overlapping security checks and the temporary evacuation of some exhibitor stalls ahead of the Prime Minister's visit to the expo.

Amid the disruption, some participants reported misplaced or stolen items.

Punit Jain, founder of Reskill, initially criticised the arrangements, saying exhibitors and delegates were left outside without water or clarity on access.

"If access was limited to select high-value guests, just say it upfront. Don't mobilize the ecosystem and then displace them. This is not how we build India's AI future," Mr. Jain wrote on X on Monday.

However, he acknowledged that coordination improved significantly on Tuesday, the second day of the summit.

Organisers said corrective measures were taken through the day to ease congestion and improve coordination, and assured participants that the remaining days of the summit would run more smoothly.

(With PTI inputs)

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw says the turnout is phenomenal and corrective steps have been taken. ANI

More halls opened, crowd flow improves

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

After a relatively chaotic first day on Monday, the India AI Impact Summit saw smoother operations on Tuesday, with more areas opened to attendees and fewer surges of crowding, even as turnout remained strong. Students came in from local colleges, schools, and corporates queued up outside multiple gates, but the lines moved steadily.

Unlike on the opening day, there were no security-led evacuations of large areas. In fact, additional hall space at the 100-acre Bharat Mandapam complex was formally opened.

The three-day gap before the gathering of heads of State allowed organisers to address the initial glitches.

"Less crowd today, smoother movement, and big banners outside meeting rooms for better visibility," Vijay S., an attendee, said on X, calling it a "good recovery after yesterday's chaos". Visitors had also flagged inadequate clear signage on the opening day.

However, technical issues persisted. Many sessions continued to experience problems with livestreams, skipping speaker introductions, and audio going silent.

Two digital initiatives to boost health AI ecosystem launched

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J.P. Nadda on Tuesday launched two digital health initiatives – SAHI (Secure AI for Health Initiative) and BODH (Benchmarking Open Data Platform for Health AI) – during the India AI Impact Summit.

"The launch marks a milestone in advancing safe, ethical, and evidence-based deployment of Artificial Intelligence in India's healthcare ecosystem," the Ministry said in a release.

He said that AI did not operate in isolation, but thrived on strong digital infrastructure and high-quality data. He noted that the National Health Policy, 2017, envisaged the creation of a comprehensive digital health ecosystem that would be interoperable, inclusive, and scalable.

"Building on this vision, the government launched the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission in 2020 to establish a robust digital public architecture for healthcare," he said.

SAHI and BODH

Describing SAHI as not merely a technology strategy but a governance framework, policy compass, and national road map for the responsible use of AI in healthcare, Mr. Nadda said that SAHI would guide India in leveraging AI in an ethical, transparent, accountable, and people-centric manner.

Additionally, collaboration between the government and academia has led to the development of BODH, which provides a structured mechanism to test and validate AI solutions before large-scale deployment.

"AI solutions must be rigorously evaluated for performance, reliability, and real-world readiness. Together, SAHI and BODH represent India's commitment to building a trustworthy, inclusive, and globally competitive health AI ecosystem grounded in innovation, responsibility, and public trust," he said.

Indian Army puts up a show with homegrown dual-use AI systems

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Indian Army on Tuesday unveiled a suite of indigenous artificial intelligence (AI) solutions at the India AI Summit, underlining its ongoing transformation into a data-centric and AI-enabled force aligned with India's vision of technological self-reliance and secure digital capability.

The Army's display at Bharat Mandapam highlighted dual-use platforms designed to serve both defence operations and civilian applications such as disaster management, cybersecurity and governance.

The Indian Army said it showcased several key systems, including AI Examiner, an automated assessment and feedback platform aimed at modernising education and training frameworks. Another major highlight was SAMUN, a geospatial and AI-enabled situational awareness system designed for mission planning, disaster response and integration with smart command centres.

The Army presented EKAM (AI-as-a-Service), a secure, air-gapped indigenous AI cloud platform focused on ensuring data sovereignty and secure processing of sensitive information. Complementing this was PRAKSHEPAN, an AI-driven climatology and disaster prediction system capable of providing early alerts for landslides, floods and avalanches.

In the security domain, the Army demonstrated XFace, an AI-powered facial recognition system for identity verification, along with advanced Deepfake Detection and AI Cyber Security Systems to counter synthetic media manipulation, malware and evolving cyber threats targeting critical infrastructure.

The technologies on display included Nabh Drishti, a mobile telemetry-based real-time reporting and visualisation platform; an AI-enabled Driver Fatigue Detection device for real-time drowsiness alerts; a portable AI-in-a-Box solution designed for deployment in remote or disconnected environments; and an AI-powered Vehicle Tracking System for fleet monitoring and logistics optimisation.

The initiatives collectively signal a decisive push towards building a secure, networked and AI-empowered ecosystem.

New technology: The Army uses AI to counter cyberthreats targeting critical infrastructure. X/@INDIANARMY.ADGPI

Himanta says Rahul vetoed Sonia offer to make him CM in 2014

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Rahul was the Congress president when Sarma rebelled against the then CM Tarun Gogoi

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi vetoed senior party leader and his mother Sonia Gandhi's offer to make him the Chief Minister in 2014.

Ms. Gandhi was the Congress president when Mr. Sarma rebelled against the then Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi and claimed the support of 58 party MLAs. The Congress had rushed current party president Mallikarjun Kharge to Assam to quell the dissidence.

"When Kharge came, 58 MLAs backed me for the Chief Minister's post, while some senior leaders remained neutral. Only 12 MLAs said that I should not become the CM and that the incumbent [Tarun Gogoi] should continue," the Chief Minister told presspersons.

"Sonia Gandhi called me to her residence and asked me to decide on the date of my swearing-in. I had told madam that I would take the oath the day after [the June-end] Ambubachi Mela. Later, we came to know that Rahul Gandhi, who was in the U.S.A., called up and Congress changed its decision," Mr. Sarma said.

Mr. Sarma said that Mr. Kharge kept reminding the party leadership that he enjoyed the support of most of the MLAs.

"Justice was not delivered, but I feel blessed that it did not happen then. I would have carried a blot forever had I become a Congress CM. I could not have worked for the Sanatani and the Assamese," he said.

Cong. to meet State leaders to plan strategy against U.S. deal

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Seeking to increase pressure on the Narendra Modi government regarding the interim India-U.S. trade agreement, the Congress has planned a meeting of leaders from five States and a Union Territory with party president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on February 20 to chart its political strategy.

Leaders from Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir will meet Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Kharge to discuss the fallout of the trade deal on farmers. The locations were shortlisted on the basis of the agricultural crops, fruits, and nuts grown there and the possible impact of the deal on them, a source said.

"We are already running a ground campaign against the Modi government for scrapping the MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act). Now, we will add this too," a senior Congress leader said, adding, "We won't let off the government on this deal."

The party has accused the government of "surrendering" the interests of India's farmers, energy security, and digital and data autonomy.

Former Assam Congress chief to join ruling BJP on February 22

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Former Assam Congress chief Bhupen Kumar Borah will join the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party on February 22, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said after visiting his residence in Guwahati on Tuesday.

The announcement ended speculation about which way Mr. Borah would go – remain with the grand old party by withdrawing his resignation or join another political party ahead of the coming elections to the 126-member Assembly.

The Chief Minister said the BJP would give respect and dignity to Mr. Borah, who was the "last recognised Hindu leader in Congress". He added that joining the BJP would be a homecoming for Mr. Borah.

Puri must clarify '62 emails, 14 meetings' with Epstein: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday accused Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri of "lying" on the controversy surrounding the "Epstein files", and asked him to explain the "62 email exchanges" with convicted American sex offender Jeffrey Epstein between 2014 and 2017.

The party reiterated its demand for the Minister's resignation.

Mr. Puri has denied the Congress's allegations, and said he had met Epstein on "a few occasions", and that the meetings were "professional" in nature.

Addressing a press conference, Congress media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said there were nine meetings alone in 2014, and 14 in all between 2014 and 2017. "Between 2014 and 2017, there were 62 email exchanges between Hardeep Puri and Epstein," he asked. He said Mr. Puri had sent 32 emails, while Epstein had written 30 and the meetings took place soon after the Narendra Modi government assumed office in 2014 and continued till 2017.

"The question is what position did Hardeep Puri hold in June 2014, and in what capacity did he meet Epstein," Mr. Khera asked.

Mr. Khera took a swipe at the Centre over Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates's scheduled participation at the India AI Impact Summit, alleging contradictory claims by government sources.

Hardeep Singh Puri

INBRIEF

46 lakh students appear for CBSE Class 10, 12 Board exams

The Class 10 and 12 CBSE Board exams began on Tuesday with over 46 lakh students appearing at over 8,000 centres across the country and abroad, officials said. Class 10 students appeared for the mathematics exam on Tuesday, while Class 12 examination was scheduled for four subjects – biotechnology, entrepreneurship, shorthand (Hindi) and shorthand (English). The Class 10 exams will conclude on March 10, and Class 12 exams on April 9. The Board had cautioned students to reach their examination centres by 10 a.m., keeping in mind the local conditions, traffic, weather conditions, and distance. PTI

Activist flags rat-hole mining on Assam-Arunachal boundary

An Assam-based environmentalist has flagged Meghalaya-like rat-hole coal mines operating along the State's boundary with Arunachal Pradesh, advising the government to save the eco-sensitive coal belt by upgrading five reserve forests in the area to wildlife sanctuaries. In a memorandum addressed to Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, submitted via Golaghat District Commissioner Parag Kumar Kakati on Monday, green activist Apurba Ballav Goswami said poaching and rampant coal mining posed a threat to the reserve forests near the 231.65-sq. km Dehing-Patkai National Park straddling Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts. A rainforest, the park is referred to as "Amazon of the East".

Delhi HC tells Unnao case convict to surrender

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday said Jaideep Sengar, brother of expelled BJP leader Kuldeep Sengar, should surrender in the absence of any order extending the earlier interim bail granted to him on medical grounds in the case pertaining to the custodial death of the father of the Unnao rape survivor.

Jaideep Sengar, who was awarded a 10-year jail term in the case by a trial court, has sought an extension of his interim bail by three months as he is suffering from oral cancer.

Fabricated prescription

Counsel representing the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), however, said it was not a fit case for extension of interim bail, claiming that the prescription submitted by Jaideep Sengar in support of his plea was not genuine but fabricated.

"Your interim bail was only for a particular period, and you should have surrendered. I just read the file, and there is no order [extending the interim bail]," the court said.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma asked the CBI to file a "detailed" verification report in the matter.

51 students evacuated from Manipur school as tension continues

The Kuki students were shifted from a Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in Naga-dominated Ukhrul district as a precautionary measure, say police

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Manipur police have evacuated 51 Kuki students from a school in the Naga-dominated Ukhrul district amid tensions between the two communities triggered by an assault case on February 7.

In a statement issued late Monday night, the police said the students were temporarily shifted from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) at Ramva in Ukhrul to a JNV in the adjoining Kangpokpi district. Exam centres for 18 of these students appearing for Class 10 and 12 Board exams have also been shifted to the Kangpokpi JNV, officials said.

Kangpokpi is dominated by the Kuki-Zo community. The Class 10 and Class 12 exams are scheduled from February 17 to April 4.

Precautionary measure

"Along with them, the remaining students from the Kuki community of JNV Ramva were also evacuated as a precautionary measure," the statement read.

Gutted by violence: Houses set ablaze by armed miscreants at Litan Sareikhong village in Ukhrul district of Manipur last week. PTI

The evacuation involved 20 girls housed at the 40 Assam Rifles Battalion headquarters at Shangshak and 31 boys from the company operating base of the paramilitary force at Shokvao.

"During the evacuation process, some members of the public mistook them for miscreants," a Manipur police spokesperson said, adding that members of Tangkhul Naga organisations helped de-escalate tensions.

"Their efforts in persuading villagers across Shangshak, Ramva, Shokvao, T.M. Kasom, and S. Laho ensured the safe evacuation of the students to Litan police station despite heightened tensions," the spokesperson said.

According to the officials, the evacuation was deemed necessary after violence in Litan and adjoining areas between February 7 and 13. Although no one was killed, more than 50 houses belonging to members of both tribal communities were torched during the violence.

A Learjet 45 crashed in Baramati, Maharashtra on January 28 killing Pawar, his security officer, both pilots, and a cabin crew member. PTI

Black box of plane that crashed killing Ajit Pawar damaged: AAIB

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The black box of the aircraft that crashed killing Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and four others was exposed to intense heat and sustained fire damage, and, as a result, the cockpit voice recording is yet to be retrieved, the probe agency has said.

A Learjet 45 crashed in Baramati, Maharashtra on January 28 killing Pawar his security officer, both pilots, and a cabin crew member. The chartered plane belonged to the Delhi-based VSR Private Ltd.

The black box, which comprises the digital flight data recorder (DFDR) and the cockpit voice recorder (CVR), was recovered the following day.

On Tuesday, the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau probing the crash said that the data from the DFDR had been successfully downloaded, but the CVR "is undergoing detailed technical examination".

Specialised support

The AAIB has sought specialised support in data retrieval from the manufacturer of the CVR, the U.S.-based Honeywell.

"The aircraft was equipped with two independent flight recorders. Both recorders were exposed to intense heat for a prolonged period during the accident and sustained fire damage," the AAIB said in a press statement.

Since the crash, the DGCA has ordered an audit into the charter operator involved in the crash, VSR Private Ltd., as well as 14 other large charter operators.

Registration fee mulled for Char Dham Yatra: official

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

To check fake and repetitive entries, the Uttarakhand government on Tuesday said it was mulling the introduction of a fee for online registration for the Char Dham Yatra. With over 50 lakh takers last year, the yatra is the backbone of the State's economy that is mostly dependent on religious tourism.

Vinay Shankar Pandey, Commissioner, Garhwal, told the media that a committee had been constituted to finalise the amount at the earliest. It was being done to discourage non-genuine registrations, which led to overcrowding, logistical difficulties, and safety concerns in previous years as the pilgrimage draws millions of devotees annually.

J&K statehood to come through 'rightful process', says Law Minister

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir will be granted through a "rightful" process, Union Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said on Tuesday, even as the Union Territory's Chief Minister Omar Abdullah noted that this process "has taken longer than expected... but we have not lost hope".

Addressing a tele-law event in Srinagar, Mr. Meghwal said: "Union Home Minister Amit Shah has assured Parliament [on restoration of Statehood]. It has to go through the rightful process. I believe people will hear a decision very soon as promised to the nation."

Speaking at the same event, Mr. Abdullah also referred to the demand for Statehood, saying, "The process is ongoing, but it has taken longer than expected. We had hoped by now to receive some good news. We haven't, but we have not lost hope. Continuous dialogue is under way with the Central government. It has been one-and-a-half years, and hopefully, we won't have to wait much longer for a positive update."

Union Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal with J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in Srinagar on Tuesday. PTI

Mr. Abdullah also thanked Mr. Shah for reopening 17 tourist destinations in J&K, which were closed in the wake of the Pahalgam attack last year.

"Good that these destinations were reopened. There is no point in keeping them closed. We kept them open at the peak of difficult times in J&K. Unfortunately, people associated with tourism have suffered heavy losses due to the closure of [tourist sites]. Now, our season is starting and I hope everyone will take advantage of the beauty of these places," he added.

They were both speaking at a workshop under the tele-law initiative of the DISHA (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice) scheme at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre.

The Union Law Minister said justice should reach every citizen, whether living in villages, mountainous regions, or coastal areas. "Initiatives such as tele-law, Nyaya Bandhu, and legal literacy programmes are instrumental in realising Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision of social and economic justice. The use of digital platforms has transformed justice delivery by bringing legal services closer to citizens," Mr. Meghwal said.

Supreme Court flags the risks of using AI for drafting petitions

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed grave concerns over the growing reliance on artificial intelligence (AI) in drafting legal petitions.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, and Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi said the "alarming" trend had resulted in the citing of non-existent or fictitious case laws in petitions.

In December 2025, the Chief Justice said the court was very conscious of the risks emanating from the indiscriminate use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) in legal work. The court also made it clear that the judiciary did not want artificial intelligence to overpower the justice administration process. At the time, the court was hearing a petition filed by Kartikeya Rawal highlighting the dangers of GenAI, which could create "hallucinations", resulting in fictitious judgments.

On Tuesday, the Bench said the use of AI for legal drafting was "absolutely uncalled for". Justice Nagarathna recalled how a lawyer arguing before her Bench had recently cited a non-existent case law titled 'Mercy vs Mankind'.

The judge said certain petitions quoted from non-existent portions in actual judgments. The Bench pointed out that easy means to do legal research should not be at the cost of accuracy. The Bench referred to a case before another apex court Bench headed by Justice Dipankar Datta quoted non-existing judicial precedents.

17 acquitted in Chhattisgarh's father-son murder case

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

A sessions court on Tuesday acquitted all 17 men arrested for murdering an elderly man and his son during communal violence in Chhattisgarh's Bemetara district in 2023.

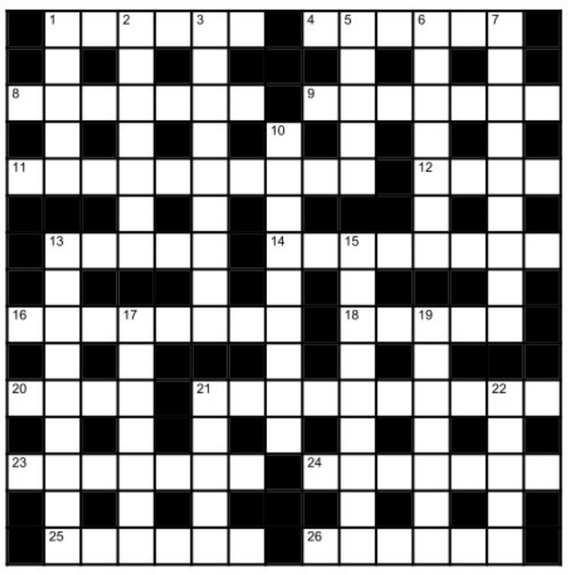
The bodies of Raheem Ummad Mohammad, 55, and his son Idul Mohammad, 35 – cattle grazers from Biranpur village in Bemetara – were found in Korvayi on April 11, 2023, at a time when communal violence had broken out in the village. Rahim and his son were murdered despite heavy police presence in the village. It later emerged that a day before their bodies were found, a house near Biranpur which belonged to Rahim's married daughter had been burnt by a mob.

TH CROSSWORD + 14720

(set by Gridzilla)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Study starts to trace ancestral lineage of canines (6)
4 Sun not seen in part of Russia and part of Europe (6)
8 Someone on a terrace is having a baby! (7)
9 Avoid draw? (4,3)
11 About to ask loners all over the place to stand together? (5,5)
12 Cut some sweet cherries (4)
13 Physicist originally from Europe researched muons intensively (5)
14 Quickly starts snapping its photo (4,2,2)
16 Plan is right from start to finish and logical to begin with (8)
18 Old Peruvian beer may be found here (5)
20 God of war essentially! (4)
21 Spooner's unreasonable standards - they could be frowned upon! (3,7)
23 Risk is great, but not absolute (7)
24 These discriminators are on board? (7)
25 Had spent time, to take wife out (6)
26 Enter with extremely tipsy author around lunchtime (4,2)

Down

1 People get on when love is expressed (5)
2 Abstainer's turned on by hot nurse (3-4)
3 Members of a rock band? (9)
5 At last, scrub your butt cheek (5)
6 Say, buffalo and bear finally teamed up (3,4)
7 A time to avoid pretentiousness, and care (9)
10 Hotel in Iceland served a Mexican dish (9)
13 On the contrary, some monks might live like this? (3,4,2)
15 A pill they popped for pastime (9)
17 Have mixed up pesos with shillings (7)
19 Intimate clip from biopic on Fidel (7)
21 In Bangalore on vacation, kid gets reward (5)
22 I unloaded supplies in shop (3,2)

SUDOKU

				5		1		3
6						9		4
			9	1				2
1		6	2					8
9		7				6		1
3					1	2		9
2				3	7			
8		3						6
5		4		6				

No.SS6795 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

R	D	S	F	B	P	A	B
E	L	U	C	I	D	A	T	E	L	A	P	S	E
S	M	N	T	L	U	P	T
P	R	A	N	G	W	O	O	D	S	C	R	E	W
E	L	A	W	O	I
C	O	F	F	E	R	S	P	I	L	L	B	O	X
T	R	F	A	E	A	T
C	I	V	I	L	S	E	R	V	A	N	T	S
A	E	L	T	D	E	T
B	E	N	Z	E	N	E	O	P	E	N	D	A	Y
Y	D	A	N	R	P
S	U	S	P	E	N	D	E	R	S	P	A	T	E
M	H	A	I	U	H	G	S
A	D	I	O	S	L	A	S	S	I	T	U	D	E
L	P	T	Y	H	P	E	T

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	7	4	5	1	2	9	8	6
1	9	6	3	4	8	5	7	2
8	5	2	7	6	9	1	4	3
6	4	5	9	8	3	2	1	7
9	2	1	4	7	6	8	3	5
7	3	8	1	2	5	4	6	9
4	6	9	2	3	1	7	5	8
5	8	7	6	9	4	3	2	1
2	1	3	8	5	7	6	9	4

FAITH

Birthplace of Acharyas

Thiruvellarai is a kshetra special in many respects, elaborated K.B. Devarajan in a discourse. Thirumangai Azhvar, while praising Pundareekaksha, the presiding deity of Thiruvellarai, describes the many avataras of Lord Narayana. The kshetra has many sacred tanks. It has two entrances. The Dakshinayana entrance and Uttarayana entrance. This is another special feature of this temple. The greatness of a village lies not only in the shrine that we find in the village, but also in the scholars and devotees who live there, or who lived there at some time in the past. Thiruvellarai is important to Sri Vaishnavas in this respect too. Nathamunigal learnt the verses of the Azhvars from Nammazhvar himself. He taught the verses with music to his nephews Melai Agathu Azhvan and Keezhai Agathu Azhvan. However, he had to train disciples to carry forward the entire Sri Vaishnava tradition. And he found a suitable sishya in Uyyakondar, who was born in Thiruvellarai. Uyyakondar's disciple was Manakkal Nambi. Manakkal Nambi's disciple was Alavandar, who authored Chatussloki, Stotra Ratna, Geethartha Sangraha and Agamapraamanya.

Another Acharya, Vishnu Chitta, was also born in Thiruvellarai. He wrote a commentary for sage Parasara's Vishnu Purana. This commentary is called Vishnu Chitheeyam. Ramanujacharya had a great fondness for Vishnu Chitta, and called him Engal Azhvan. Thus, Thiruvellarai is the kshetra where we worship Pundareekaksha, whose name means Lotus-eyed One. It is not only sacred because of this temple, but is also sacred because it was the birthplace of revered and scholarly Sri Vaishnava Acharyas.

INBRIEF

Maruti Suzuki launches e Vitara at ₹10.99 lakh

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. said it had commenced deliveries of the e Vitara at an introductory price of ₹10.99 lakh plus battery EMI of ₹3.99 per km. The e Vitara is available in two battery options - 61kWh and 49kWh - with a driving range of up to 543 km. The Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) is available in two battery packs, and the highest range is 543 km in one charge. Bookings can be done at NEXA showrooms or on the website https://www.nexaexperience.com/ebook

RBI releases draft directions on foreign exchange dealings

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday released the draft Directions on Foreign Exchange Dealings of Authorised Persons to ease reporting obligations, and invited comments and feedback on the draft directions by March 10, 2026. The format for reporting of net open position limits has also been updated, it said. The Reserve Bank has been refining the regulations governing the foreign exchange market based on evolving needs and market feedback.

Carrier India to set up new manufacturing unit in Sri City

Carrier Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Ltd. has signed a lease deed with Sri City to set up a new manufacturing facility on 39 acres at Sri City industrial city in Tirupati district. The project entails an investment of ₹1,000 crore and is expected to create 1,000 direct and 2,000 indirect jobs. Carrier India MD Sundaresan Narayanan said the new facility would meet the rising demand for energy-efficient commercial cooling solutions to generate local employment.

'AI Mission 2.0 will have more GPUs for common compute'

IndiaAI Mission to purchase 20,000 more graphics processing units; subsequent phase of the mission to lean heavily on AI R&D: Vaishnaw

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The IndiaAI Mission will add 20,000 more graphics processing units (GPUs) to the government-run "common compute" cluster, which is open for local firms, researchers and academia to use, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said at a briefing at the AI Impact Summit.

The GPUs will be installed in the common compute cluster "within the next six months," Mr. Vaishnaw said. "As we go forward, I will be launching the AI Mission 2.0, where there will be a huge focus on research and development, on innovation, on AI diffusion, on further strengthening the common compute that we have been able to develop" in the first phase of the mission, Mr. Vaishnaw said.

Full throttle: IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw at a briefing at the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi on Tuesday. REUTERS

IT Secretary S. Krishnan said at a session that the government was providing these resources – including a yet-to-be-unveiled foundational large language model from an Indian firm – "for one reason only: to build applications with real impact."

Meanwhile, Opposition leaders sharply criticised the invitation to former Microsoft CEO Bill Gates to address the keynote, citing his alleged closeness with the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Earlier in the day, the *Press Trust of India* cited government sources, reporting that Mr. Gates would not come. However, a Gates Foundation spokesperson insisted that he would address the summit as planned. "If true, what a shame," Priyanka Chaturvedi, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP, Rajya Sabha, said on X.

India gets first private sector helicopter final assembly line in Kolar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday virtually inaugurated the Tata Advanced Systems' Final Assembly Line (FAL) for the Airbus H125 helicopter.

The facility in Vemagal, Kolar district in Karnataka, is India's first private-sector helicopter FAL. This is the first time India's private sector will undertake the manufacturing, integration, testing and maintenance of a sophisticated rotary-wing platform.

The civil H125 will first be built at this facility and in future the military variant of the helicopter could also be built.

The first localised H125 is expected to be delivered early 2027 and will also be available for export across South Asia. Tata Advanced Systems Limited and Airbus said that the H125M is optimised to serve as a high-altitude force multiplier across a spectrum of critical missions.

India and France's Defence Ministers at the virtual inauguration of the facility.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh who was present on the occasion said the H-125 programme investment is anticipated to exceed ₹1000 crore.

Minister of the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs of France Catherine Vautrin said the inauguration of the facility is a testament to French-Indian defence cooperation.

Karnataka'S Large and Medium Industries Minister M. B. Patil said 500 H125 light helicopters will be manufactured over the next 20 years at this facility. Mr. Patil said 17 acres of land had been allotted for the project.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	83,451	0.21
US Dollar	90.72	0.02
Gold	1,57,000	-1.38
Brent oil	67.06	-2.03

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2242.90	58.30
Adani Ports	1566.30	26.20
Apollo Hosp	7601.50	-16.50
Asian Paints	2437.40	40.20
Axis Bank	1357.20	-1.10
Bajaj Auto	9826.50	129.00
Bajaj Finserv	2044.40	-6.50
Bajaj Finance	1014.15	1.40
Bharat Elec	446.85	8.85
Bharti Airtel	2020.30	-9.10
Cipla	1343.90	-12.50
Coal India	421.55	-0.95
Dr Reddys Lab	1284.80	15.40
Eicher Motors	8035.00	24.50
Eternal Ltd.	281.50	-5.10
Grasim Ind	2900.40	-12.30
HCL Tech	1482.60	20.80
HDFC Bank	925.70	-0.10
HDFC Life	705.80	1.90
Hindalco	890.10	-17.35
Hind Unilever	2312.30	-6.70
ICICI Bank	1407.50	-4.10
IntGlobeAvi	4977.00	36.20
Infosys	1391.20	25.60
ITC	325.45	7.50
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	262.30	-0.25
JSW Steel	1244.60	-3.60
Kotak Bank	424.45	-1.15
Kwality Walls	27.95	-1.47
L&T	4279.80	78.30
M&M	3489.20	-20.50
Maruti Suzuki	15179.00	128.00
Max Healthcare	1076.15	0.30
NestleIndia	1285.30	-4.50
NTPC	368.40	-0.70
ONGC	271.85	0.30
PowerGrid Corp	300.75	0.25
Reliance Ind	1423.00	-14.10
SBI Life	2039.50	-2.90
State Bank	1213.40	5.30
Shriram Finance Ltd.	1075.00	-10.40
Sun Pharma	1717.10	16.60
TataConsumerProduct	1148.50	9.30
Tata Steel	203.08	-2.73
TCS	2717.40	10.80
Tech Mahindra	1523.80	11.10
Titan	4236.40	55.30
Tata Motors PV	382.85	5.60
Trent Ltd.	4171.90	-57.60
UltraTech Cement	12984.00	3.00
Wipro	215.69	2.43

Adani commits $100 bn to build AI-ready data centres

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Adani Group on Tuesday unveiled a $100-billion investment to develop renewable-energy-powered, hyperscale AI-ready data centres by 2035 - one of the world's largest integrated energy-compute commitments. The initiative is expected to catalyse an additional $150 billion across server manufacturing, cloud platforms, and supporting industries, creating a projected $250 billion AI infrastructure ecosystem in India, Adani Enterprises, the group's flagship firm, said in a statement.

"The world is entering an intelligence revolution more profound than any previous industrial revolution," said Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group.

"Nations that master the symmetry between energy and compute will shape the next decade." India, he said, is uniquely positioned to lead.

"At Adani, we are building on our foundation in data centres and green energy to expand into the complete five-layer AI stack focused on India's technological sovereignty. India will not be a mere consumer in the AI age. We will be the creators, the builders and the exporters of intelligence, and we are proud to be able to participate in that future," he said.

CleanMax to float ₹3,100 cr. IPO

Clean Max Enviro Energy Solutions, a commercial and industrial renewable energy provider, on Tuesday said its ₹3,100-crore IPO will open for subscription on February 23. PTI

'India must mop up $500 bn a year for Net Zero goal'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

India needs to mobilise about $22 trillion or about $500 billion a year to meet Net Zero goal by 2070, said Agnes Dasewicz, chief investment and programme officer, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet, in an interview.

The GEA works to unlock green energy access in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

"You will never be able to do that without aligning government, private finance and philanthropy, because you need all of them to grow in the same direction to achieve that kind of ambition," she said.

On funding, Woochong Um, CEO, Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet, said, "You hear about trillions of dollars that's floating globally.

"To get that money, the government has to work very closely with the multilaterals. There are a lot of projects out there as a blueprint but not invested as they don't have enough information on technical details, viability and all that stuff. So, doing due diligence to bring it to the bankable stage, that will enable people to invest."

Multilateral finance

He said different types of money, like the 'philanthropy and Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and government and private sector are not necessarily aligned and leveraging each other. "So, try to create proof of concept so that it leads to some sort of investable project."

At Mumbai Climate Week, the Alliance unveiled a national platform for deploying up to $25 million to modernise power distribution, integrate renewable energy and storage and prepare grids for fast demand growth.

Infosys ties up with Anthropic

Reuters
BENGALURU

Infosys unveiled a partnership with Anthropic on Tuesday, days after investor concerns that AI tools would disrupt the traditional business models of Indian IT services firms shaved billions off their market value.

The sell-off was triggered, in part, by the launch of a tool by Amazon and Alphabet-backed Anthropic, which has seen its revenue run-rate in India doubling in four months.

Enterprise market

Anthropic has leaned heavily on the enterprise AI market and last month launched Claude Cowork, an AI agent that helps execute computer tasks for white-collar workers. The startup has existing partnerships with Indian companies such as Air India.

Under the tie-up, Infosys and Anthropic will develop and deploy AI agents, initially focusing on telecom and then expanding into financial services, manufacturing and software development.

Government of Uttarakhand, Department of Higher Education
No. 370702/XXIV-C-1/2026-E-33407/12(01)2012, Dehradun, Dated 13 February, 2026

NOTICE FOR INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHANCELLOR OF SRI DEV SUMAN UNIVERSITY, BADSHAHITHAUL TEHRI GARHWAL

The Uttarakhand Government has announced the appointment for the post of Vice Chancellor at Sri Dev Suman University, Badshahithaul Tehri Garhwal Under the provisions mentioned in Section 10(1) of the Shri Dev Suman Uttarakhand University Act, 2011 and as per conditions stipulated in UGC Notification dated 18.07.2018. applications are invited for the appointment on the one post of Vice Chancellor with a pay scale of ₹2,10,000 and a special allowance of ₹11,250.00 with total emoluments of ₹ 2,21,250.00

2. The Vice Chancellor will be appointed from individuals possessing the highest level of efficiency, integrity, morality, and commitment to the institution. Eligible candidates must have at least 10 years of experience as a professor in a university or 10 years of educational leadership experience in a recognized research or educational administrative organization. The applicant should be a distinguished academician with relevant experience.

3. On the date of publication of this notification, the age of the person applying for the post of Vice-Chancellor should not be more than 65 years.

4. Applicants who meet the above conditions must submit their application along with all relevant records, including proof of date of birth, appointment order to the post of Professor, date of joining, a photocopy of the pay scale to the post of Professor, and salary-related documents. The application and supporting documents should be submitted in the prescribed format. Completed applications must be received latest by **6:00 PM on 10.03.2026**. Applications can be submitted in person, via speed/registered post to the office of **Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Government of Uttarakhand, First Floor, Subhash Chandra Bose Bhawan, Secretariat Complex, 04 Subhash Road, Dehradun,** or submitted through in person or sent through email to **vcselectionhighereducation@gmail.com.**

5. Experience and qualifications for the post of Vice Chancellor will be calculated as on **31.01.2026**. Applications that are incomplete or not received within the prescribed format and deadline will not be considered.

Prescribed Format

Name & Address	Date of Birth	Age as on date of publication of advertisement	Education/ Qualification	Position held Presently	Date of Joining on post of Professor and Equivalent	Teaching/Past Position held (From-To) Experience			Administrative Experience			Awards/ Patents/ Recognition	Publication/ Research work	Remark
						Post	Duration From	Duration To	Post	Duration From	Duration To			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

Dr. Ranjit Kumar Sinha, Secretary
Higher Education Department, Uttarakhand Secretariat

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
ELECTRICAL CIRCLE (R&B), NIRMAN SOUDHA, BHUBANESWAR
E-mail : seec.bbsr2010@gmail.com
Bid Identification No.S.E.E.C (R&B) 32/2025-26
No.486 / Date 09.02.2026/

The Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for E.I. works which are to be received through online bidding, double cover system as detailed in: **https://tendersorissa.gov.in.** The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from **dt.21.02.2026 at 05.00 P.M. to dt.09.03.2026 up to 05.00 P.M**. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened **dt.10.03.2026 at 11.30 A.M.** in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**.

Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.

Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, BBSR.
34001/52/2526
OIPR-34001/34006/1/25-26/0020

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 & 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar,
Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/PMC/EPTND-EP-16/2080/2025-26 Date: 17.02.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR PROVIDING PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY SERVICES
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting tender under Quality Based Consultancy System (QCBS) as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Consulting Firms under two cover system for the following works:

Name of the works: 1) Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Establishment of Knowledge, Wellbeing and Innovation City (KWIN City) at Phase-1, Doddaballapura & Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. 2) Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Establishment of Knowledge, Wellbeing and Innovation City (KWIN City) at Sector-1 of Phase-2, Doddaballapura & Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. 3) Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Establishment of Knowledge, Wellbeing and Innovation City (KWIN City) at Sector-2 of Phase-2, Doddaballapura & Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. 4) Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Establishment of Knowledge, Wellbeing and Innovation City (KWIN City) at Sector-1 of Phase-3, Doddaballapura & Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. 5) Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Establishment of Knowledge, Wellbeing and Innovation City (KWIN City) at Sector-2 of Phase-3, Doddaballapura & Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. 6) Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Survey, Investigation, Design, Supply, Installation, Erection, Laying, Construction and Commissioning of MS Pipe Gravity Main from MBR to IPS-3 and Construction of Intermediate Pumping Station-3 (IPS-3), Pumping Machineries and allied works inside the pump houses, 5 years of O&M for Providing & Supplying fresh water to the industrial areas in districts around Bengaluru on EPC Basis. (Package-3) (2nd Call). 7) Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Survey, Investigation, Design, Supply, Installation, Erection, Laying, Construction and Commissioning Jackwell cum pump house, M S Pipe Rising Main from Yetinahole Gravity canal to MS Gravity pipe near KWIN City including Pumping Machineries and allied works inside the pump houses, SCADA, Land Acquisition & 5 years of O&M for Providing & Supplying fresh water to the industrial areas in districts around Bengaluru on EPC Basis. (Package-6) (2nd Call).

- Last Date for submission of Bids: **05.03.2026** upto **4:00** pm.

Applicants may download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/5688/CCL/2025-26 **Chief Engineer-1, KIADB, Bengaluru**

TIDEL NEO LIMITED
(An ISO 9001/14001 Company)
No.4, Rajiv Gandhi Salai, Taramani, Chennai – 600 113
Ph: 044-22540500 / 501 E-mail: tenders@tidelpark.com; Website: www.tidelpark.com

NOTICE NO. TIDEL NEO/2025–26/06 18.02.2026

TIDEL Neo Limited invites e-Tender for the following works:

(6A) Construction of IT Office Building, Ground Floor + 4 Floors + Terrace, including Civil Construction, HVAC, Electrical HT/LT, Elevator, IBMS, Fire Protection, Plumbing, Structural Façade, Landscaping, STP, WTP and External Works at **Karur**.

(6B) Construction of IT Office Building, Ground Floor + 3 Floors + Terrace, including Civil Construction, HVAC, Electrical HT/LT, Elevator, IBMS, Fire Protection, Plumbing, Structural Façade, Landscaping, STP, WTP and External Works at **Pudukkottai**.

(6C) Construction of IT Office Building, Ground Floor + 3 Floors + Terrace, including Civil Construction, HVAC, Electrical HT/LT, Elevator, IBMS, Fire Protection, Plumbing, Structural Façade, Landscaping, STP, WTP and External Works at **Nagapattinam**.

For more details and participation in the above e-Tender, please visit the website www.tntenders.gov.in. Last date for online submission of duly filled in tender documents is **3.00 p.m. on 04.03.2026**. TIDEL Neo Limited reserves the right to accept /reject any one/all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

DIPR/1172/TENDER/2026 MANAGING DIRECTOR

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : SUNDARGARH
Near Bana Durga Temple, Sankara, Sundargarh, Dist: Sundargarh-PIN-770020
Email: serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com
Via E-mail/ E-despatch

Office Order No.1029// Date :.16.02.2026
2nd Corrigendum

The date of availability of tender online/ date of seeking clarification/ date of opening of tender for all the works invited under NIT Letter No.**486 dtd 27.01.2026** vide Bid Identification No: Online - **RWCCESNG-34 of 2025-26** are hereby modified as follows:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding upto	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Technical Bid Opening	Financial Bid Opening
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-34 of 2025-26	17.02.2026 11:00 AM	05.03.2026 5:00 PM	02.03.2026 5:00 PM	06.03.2026 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

All other terms and Conditions are remained Unchanged.

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh.
25001/191/2526 OIPR-25001/25133/1/25-26/0043

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813; website: www.pspcl.in,
(Contact No. 96461-23210, 96461-40122)

Tender Enquiry No. (RfS No.) 60/PSPCL/NRSE/SOLAR/1000MW/2026/ET-9 Dated: 16.02.2026

Office of Dy. CE/NRSE, T-8, NRSE & Thermal (D), Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala-147001, invites bids for purchase of 1000 MW Solar Power through competitive bidding process (followed by e-reverse auction) from 1 MW to 5 MW Grid connected Solar PV Power Plants located anywhere in Punjab. For detailed NIT and tender specification please refer to **https://www.bharat-electronictender.com/**

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at **https://www.bharat-electronictender.com/** only.

C 238/26 1079/12/2025-26/8409

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
HARBOUR WORKS DIVISION No.I,
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
e-TCN No.CE/HWDI/ACCTS-12/25/54, dtd.13.02.2026

Name of the work : "Development of New Plot adjacent to the MCHP plot near BoT Railway bulb towards Gate No.1 inside Harbour area". Put to tender value: Rs.5,47,40,515.26 plus GST as applicable. Last date & time of submission of tender through online bidding is 09.03.2026 up to 17:15 Hrs. For details, please log on to the Website: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

Executive Engineer,
Harbour Works Division No.I, PPA.
PPA/PR/68/2025-2026, dt.16/02/2026

CIAL COCHIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED

CIAL/COML/TROLLEYS/2026 18.02.2026

TENDER NOTICE

SITC OF RFID ENABLED PASSENGER BAGGAGE TROLLEYS WITH MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AT CIAL

Online item rate e-tenders are invited for SITC of RFID enabled Passenger Baggage Trolleys with Maintenance Management System at CIAL. The Last date of submission of bids is 1500 hrs. on 12.03.2026. Interested firms may register themselves on the online e-Tendering portal **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** and download the Tender documents.

For further details, visit **https://www.cial.aero/tenders** or contact **0484-2610115**, extn: **2274**

Sd/-
MANAGING DIRECTOR

ISLAMABAD

Ex-Pak. PM Imran Khan enduring 'mistreatment' in jail, family claims

REUTERS

Pakistan's incarcerated former Prime Minister Imran Khan's family claimed on Tuesday that he is enduring "unimaginable mistreatment" in prison under the directives of Field Marshal Asim Munir. "The jail's poor conditions have severely impacted his health," Mr. Khan's sister Noreen Niazi said in a post on X. PTI

WASHINGTON

Jesse Jackson, key voice of the U.S. civil rights movement, dies at 84

AP

Veteran U.S. civil rights activist Jesse Jackson, one of the nation's most influential Black voices, died on Tuesday, his family said in a statement. He was 84. A protege of Martin Luther King Jr. and a two-time presidential candidate, Jackson led the Civil Rights Movement for decades after the revered leader's assassination. AFP

GENEVA

Russia, Ukraine sit down for new round of U.S.-led talks to end war

AP

Russian and Ukrainian negotiators on Tuesday began U.S.-brokered talks in Geneva seeking to end the four-year war, hours after both sides launched fresh long-range strikes. U.S. President Donald Trump is seeking to position himself as a peacemaker, but previous talks mediated by Washington have yielded no breakthroughs. AFP

WASHINGTON

11 killed in U.S. military strikes on three alleged drug-smuggling boats

AFP

U.S. attacks killed 11 people on three alleged drug-smuggling boats in the eastern Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, the U.S. military said on Tuesday. The United States began targeting alleged smuggling boats in September last year, killing more than 140 people and destroying dozens of vessels since then. AFP

Tarique Rahman sworn in as Bangladesh PM

As the new Prime Minister, the BNP chief will head a team of 25 Cabinet Ministers and 24 Ministers of State, all of whom were sworn in by President Shahabuddin; BNP lawmakers were administered the oath as members of the Constitution Reform Commission

Kallol Bhattacherjee
DHAKA

Five days after the parliamentary elections in Bangladesh, Tarique Rahman, chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), was sworn in as the new Prime Minister on Tuesday.

The swearing-in of the new Prime Minister and his ministerial colleagues came hours after Chief Election Commissioner A.M.M Nasir Uddin administered the oath of Parliament to the newly elected members of the BNP in Parliament, Jatiyo Sansad.

As the new Prime Minister, Mr. Rahman will lead a team of 25 Cabinet Ministers and 24 Ministers of State, who were all administered oath by President Mohammed Shahabuddin. Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Amir Khosru Mahmud Chaudhury, Salahuddin Ahmed, Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku – prominent members of the National Standing Committee of the BNP; and Nitai Roy Choudhury, Kazi Shah Mofazzal Hossein, Abdul Awal Mintu, Rashiduzzaman Millat, Shama Obaid from the BNP executive committee were sworn in as Cabinet Ministers.

While most of the Ministers sworn in were elected MPs in the February 12 election, the council will also include Mohammed Amir Ur Rashid under the 'technocrats' category.

The BNP's ally Gonosanghati Andolan's Jonaid Saki, a popular face among the Gen Z protesters for his radical comments, will be a State minister.

Way forward: Tarique Rahman takes oath as Prime Minister from President Mohammed Shahabuddin in Dhaka on Tuesday. AP

The current National Security Adviser, Khalilur Rahman, has been included among the Cabinet Ministers as a 'technocrat'.

Foreign dignitaries

Around 1,200 foreign and domestic guests attended the swearing-in ceremony that took place in the South Plaza of Parliament.

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu, Pakistan's Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri were among the foreign dignitaries.

The process of transfer of power from the interim government led by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus started earlier in the day when Tarique Rahman led the BNP-alliance members to Parliament, where they were administered the oath of membership.

Before the procedure, standing committee member Salahuddin Ahmed took the microphone and said the BNP members who were present on the occasion in Parliament will not take oath for being part of the 'Constitution Reform Commission'.

"None of us were elected as members of the Constitution Reform Commission and the oath for this commission has not yet become part of the constitutional process," said Mr. Ahmed, asserting that he is conveying the decision of the party. Jamaat-e-Islami lawmakers arrived in Parliament, accompanied by the newly elected independent MPs and they were administered two separate oaths for Parliament as well as the Constitution Reform Commission.

The twin-oath procedure was conceived to integrate the results of the parliamentary election as well as referendum for constitutional amendment by including the July Charter into the Constitution.

The July Charter is a document adopted by the interim government in consultation with political parties on October 2025 after the overthrow of Sheikh Hasina-led government in August.

Iran and U.S. agree on 'guiding principles' for future discussions

Stanly Johny

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Tuesday that a general agreement on guiding principles for future talks has been reached in the second round of discussions with the U.S. in Geneva.

The talks were "serious and more constructive" than the previous round, Mr. Araghchi told reporters in Geneva, reported the state-run Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting.

Mr. Araghchi had met Steve Witkoff, U.S. special envoy, and Jared Kushner, President Donald Trump's son-in-law, in Muscat on February 6 amid high tensions in West Asia, where the U.S. has deployed fighter jets, warships and an aircraft carrier. Tuesday's talks were mediated by Oman in the Swiss city.

"Finally, we were able to reach an agreement on a set of guiding principles based on which we will move forward and discuss the text of a potential deal," said Mr. Araghchi. He added that reaching a final agreement may not be immediate, noting that technical work on the text would be complex.

Oman's Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi, who mediated the talks, also said talks concluded with "good progress". "Today's indirect negotiations between Iran and the U.S. concluded with good progress towards identifying common goals and relevant technical issues," Mr. Albusaidi wrote in a social media post.

Bangladesh reform agenda wins voters' backing, but rifts remain among parties

NEWS ANALYSIS

Rabiul Alam
DHAKA

Bangladesh's landmark referendum on constitutional reforms delivered a decisive mandate in favour of the July National Charter 2025, setting the stage for the most far-reaching reformation of the country's governance framework since independence. According to official results published by the Election Commission, more than 48 million voters backed the Charter in the February 12 referendum, with 60.26% of participants voting "Yes". The vote coincided with the country's 13th parliamentary elections.

The endorsement places immediate political and legal obligations on the new government, being led by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which secured a two-thirds majority in Parliament. While the BNP signed the Charter last year, it did so with a note of dissent on several key provisions raising questions about how smoothly the reform process will unfold.

The July Charter is a 28-page reform blueprint born from the July 2024 uprising which toppled the 15-year rule of Sheikh Hasina. It consolidates over 80 reform proposals aimed at preventing what its architects describe as the "recurrence of authoritarian and fascist rule".

In February 2025, the interim government of Muhammad Yunus established six reform commissions to examine the constitution, judiciary, electoral system, police, public administration, and anti-corruption mechanisms. Their recommendations were distilled into the July Charter through a National Consensus Commission process. In October 2025, 33 political parties, including the BNP, signed the Charter. The document was subsequently given legal effect through a Presidential order in November 2025.

Bold reset: Bangladesh's interim leader Muhammad Yunus displays the 'July National Charter' outside Parliament in October 2025. AP

Proposed changes

The referendum presented voters with four consolidated reform areas. First, the establishment of a non-partisan caretaker government to administer future elections, along with the reconstitution of the Election Commission and other key constitutional bodies based on the Charter's guidelines. Second, the creation of a bicameral Parliament. A new 100-member upper house will be formed based on the proportional vote share received by political parties in the national election. Any future constitutional amendments will require majority approval from this chamber.

Third, the implementation of 30 specific reform proposals previously agreed upon by major political factions. These include capping the tenure of the Prime Minister, expanding presidential powers, securing judicial independence, strengthening local government, and broadening fundamental citizen rights. Fourth, provisions for inclusive parliamentary representation. The mandate guarantees increased representation for women and dictates that the Deputy Speaker and Parliamentary committee chairs must be selected from the Opposition benches. Additional reforms embedded in the Charter include protections for fundamental rights such as uninterrupted Internet access, enhanced checks on executive authority, and measures to strengthen democratic accountability.

The referendum's passage imposes specific obligations on the new Parliament. Under the Constitution Reform Order 2025, the newly elected legislature will function as a Constitutional Reform Council with a fixed tenure of 180 working days to implement the Charter's provisions.

Elected members will be required to take two separate oaths, one as members of Parliament and another as members of the Constitutional Reform Council.

The BNP has given "notes of dissent" to several provisions, including the expanded powers of the President, the design and legislative role of the proposed upper house, etc.

Disagreements

However, shortly after the elections, the composition of the upper house has emerged as a particular point of contention. While the referendum mandates a chamber based on proportional representation using national vote share, the BNP's manifesto proposes allocating upper house seats based on parliamentary strength.

The National Citizen Party (NCP), founded by student leaders who led the uprising, has said the legitimacy of the referendum was stronger than that of the parliamentary election itself. "The referendum carries greater legitimacy than the national election, all Members of Parliament must enter the House with the responsibility of implementing the July Charter," said NCP spokesperson Asif Mahmud Sajib Bhuiyan.

Political analysts say the coming months will test whether the BNP's commitment to the charter withstands the practical challenges of implementation. The disagreements over specific provisions will require negotiation between the government and Opposition parties represented in Parliament.

Ali Riaz, an adviser to Muhammad Yunus, said, the referendum has delivered a direct mandate from the people for substantial constitutional reform. "It must be viewed as a public verdict and as an expression of the people's will for reform."

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka enterprise)
EE,VJNL, UBP, Division No.01, Kadur
e.mail I.D: eeubpdvn1@gmail.com Ph: 08267-295207
No:EE/VJNL/UBPD-1/K/T-07/4701/25-26 Dated: 12.02.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
On behalf of the Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP Division No.1, Kadur Chikamagalur District, Karnataka invites tender through KPP portal on "Percentage Basis" for the works of Indent No: VJNL/2025- 26/OW/WORK_INDENT467 and VJNL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT472. The Contractors can download and submit the completed bid documents through KPP portal website ("https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in") from 13.02.2026 to 13.03.2026 upto 17.30 hours. Details such as Amount put to tender/ qualification of Bidders/ Tender conditions/Tender processing fee etc can be obtained through KPP portal or from the office of the under signed during the office hours upto 06.03.2026 upto 17.30 hours. The tender will be opened on 16.03.2026 at 11.00 hours at the office of the Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP Division No.01, Kadur through KPP portal. The date of opening of Financial Bid will be intimated to the qualified bidders. The authority competent to accept the tenders shall have the right of rejecting all or any of the tenders without assigning any reasons.
Sd/- Executive Engineer VJNL, UBP Division No.01, Kadur
DIPR/ckm/ksmca/25-26/165/1853

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Health & Family Welfare
Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society
Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560023.
Tel: 080-29557021, email: pdksaps@gmail.com
No.KSAPS/CST/07/2025-26 **Dated: 17.02.2026**
Invitation for Tender (Two Cover) Call-2 through e-Procurement
Tender (two cover) Call-2 are invited for Transportation of Blood samples from selected ART centers to Designated Viral Labs through e-procurement. Tender terms & conditions are available in e-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date for submission of Tender on e-procurement platform on or before: **11/03/2026 upto 5.30 pm.**
Sd/- Project Director
DIPR/CP/5687/Zen/2025-26 **Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society, Bengaluru**

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bangalore Division,
2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-01.
Phone: 080-22133370
No. 57/2025-26 Date: 16.02.2026
SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD **Hoskote** Sub Divisions under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP. Tender Notification are Published **for 01 work (Rs. 300.00 Lakhs)** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. **EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP portal. (1)** Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **4.00 PM on Dated: 23.02.2026. (2)** The opening of tenders through KPP portal on **Dated: 24.02.2026 at 4.30 PM** or further date and time will be Intimated. **For more details contact this office.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer.
DIPR/DD-C.P/5689/KSMCA/2025-26

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Vidyaranyapura Division, Zone-1, BNCC, Bangalore-560 097.
No:BNCC/EE/VDP-D/KPPP/03/2025-26 Date: 17.02.2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Single Cover Tender) (Only through KPP Portal)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Chief Commissioner BNCC for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bengaluru North City Corporation, or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Construction and Repair in Doddachannappa Layout and Ramachandrapura Samudaya Bhavana in Ward No.10 New Ward no 12 Doddabommasandra. **Amount put to Tender (₹. In Lakhs) : 8.46, EMD (in ₹): 25,000/-.**
2.	Addition and Alteration to the Existing Namma Clinic Building at Ramachandrapura in Ward No.12 Doddabommasandra. **Amount put to Tender (₹. In Lakhs) : 41.31, EMD (in ₹): 1,00,000/-.**
3.	Construction of Additional Floor and Alteration Existing AEE Vidyaranyapura Sub Division Office Building in Ward No.09 New Ward No.13 Vidyaranyapura **Amount put to Tender (₹. In Lakhs) : 29.65, EMD (in ₹): 70,000/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Availability of Tender documents: **19.02.2026 4.30 p.m. onwards. (2)** Pre bid meeting: **25.02.2026 at 3.00 p.m. (3)** Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders: **28.02.2026 at 4.00 p.m. (4)** Date & Time for Opening of Tender : **02.03.2026 at 4.30 p.m.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Vidyaranyapura Division, Zone-1, BNCC.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through KPP Portal only)
KPCL invites tenders through "e" Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works:
BELLARY THERMAL POWER STATION
Procurement of – 1) Tender No. KPCL/2025-26/IND2371 Cutting Tools. **2) KPCL/2025-26/IND2380** Journal head liners. **3) KPCL/2025-26/IND2364** Xerox Paper A4 Size. **4) KPCL/2025-26/IND2065/CALL-2** Oil Seals. **5) KPCL/2025-26/IND2233/CALL-2** Pump Spares. **6) KPCL/2025-26/SE0308** Hiring of 07 Nos Bolero Vehicles. **7) KPCL/2025-26/IND1638/CALL-2** Measuring Instruments. **8) KPCL/2025-26/IND2365** Dozer Radiator assembly. **9) KPCL/2025-26/IND2407** ERW Pipes. Last date for receipt of tenders: For Sl. No. 1: **19.02.2026**. For Sl. No. 2: **21.02.2026**. For Sl. No. 3 & 4: **20.02.2026**. For Sl. No. 5 & 6: **24.02.2026**. For Sl. No. 7 & 8: **26.02.2026**. For Sl. No. 9: **03.03.2026**. Further details can be obtained from **Executive Engineer (Purchase) BT**, Mobile: 094808 30377. E-mail: eepurchasebtps@gmail.com
10) Tender No. KPCL/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT3948 Supply and Retrofitting of SCR-2 long travel geared motors with gearbox. **EMD: Rs.1,54,210/-.** Last date for receipt of tender: **05.03.2026.** Further details can be obtained from **Executive Engineer (CHP) Electrical-1,** BTPS, KPCL, Kudathini-583152, Ballari Dist. Mobile: 94482 90554.
RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION
11) Tender No. KPCL/2025-26PM/WORK_INDENT3949 Date: 09.02.2026 Refurbishment and Reconditioning of coal blade assembly and its attachments of M/s BHEL make BD-155 Dozer. Approx. amount put to tender (Exclusive of GST): **Rs.30,56,695/-. EMD: Rs.61,500/-.** Last date for submission of tender: **02.03.2026 up to 17.30 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the **Executive Engineer (CHP)M-2,** KPCL, RTPS, Shaktinagar-584170. Raichur Dist. Mobile: 94482 90758.

RECORD-BREAKER

From Canadian winters to WC history: Samra's dream journey

S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

Yuvraj Samra is the first male player from an Associate nation to score a century in the T20 World Cup. At 19 years and 141 days, he also became the youngest to hit a ton in the men's global T20 showpiece, eclipsing Pakistan batter Ahmed Shehzad's record (22y, 127d) in 2014 (versus Bangladesh).

MAXIMUMS GALORE

Phillips is now New Zealand's joint second-highest six-hitter

S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

Glenn Phillips on Tuesday pulled level with Colin Munro to become New Zealand's joint second-highest six-hitter in T20Is (107). Phillips smashed six maximums in the T20 World Cup match against Canada in Chennai and is behind former opener Martin Guptill, who holds the record with 173 sixes.

FANTASTIC FEAT

'It's an achievement that our whole country and people should enjoy'

AP

To qualify for the Super Eight with a game to spare for the first time in our history is certainly no small achievement. It's an achievement that our whole country and people should enjoy. Super Eight is certainly a tick in the box, but it's certainly not the whole box we set out for — Zimbabwe captain Sikandar Raza.

OPTIMISTIC

'Hopefully, our performances can help grow cricket in Netherlands'

FILE PHOTO: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Cricket is growing in the Netherlands. Obviously, football is the main sport, and we probably will never get to that level. But for us, it's about promoting the game, and, hopefully, our performances can help it grow. There are also restrictions with funding for us, but that's not under our control — captain Scott Edwards.

Soaked: The Pallekele Stadium remains under covers as weather has the final say. AFP

Rain gods favour Zimbabwe as it seals qualification spot

T20 WORLD CUP

Australia failed to progress past the group stage for the first time since the 2009 edition

Anish Pathiyil
PALLEKELE

When Australia captain Mitchell Marsh was asked about his team's hopes of making it through to the Super Eight after a demoralising loss against Sri Lanka on Monday, he mentioned "the luck of the Irish".

Australia needed Zimbabwe to falter against both Ireland and Sri Lanka in its next two games before it faced Oman in its last game with the hopes of overturning a Net Run Rate deficit.

Unfortunately for the Aussies, the rain gods in Pallekele did not get the memo.

The ICC T20 World Cup Group-B encounter against Ireland being called off before the toss meant Zimbabwe accumulated enough points to join Sri Lanka in the final eight. As for Australia, it failed to qualify out of the group stage for the first time since 2009.

A nagging drizzle since the morning of the game meant the entire ground was covered long before the scheduled start of 3 p.m. local time.

The grass banks of the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium, which were teeming with passionate Sri Lankan supporters just 18 hours ago, wore a desolate look.

The 500-odd fans that were waiting patiently in the stands did not even need an umbrella for the drizzle.

But in one of cricket's mysterious idiosyncrasies, that was enough to prevent the contest from getting underway.

Zimbabwe isn't complaining. Nor is Ireland, which had very little to gain out of the contest.

A downcast Australia, though, will have to complete the formalities against Oman and head back home without a semi-final appearance for the third successive edition since its 2021 triumph.

Points table

GROUP A

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
India (Q)	3	3	0	0	6	3.050
USA	4	2	2	0	4	0.788
Pakistan	3	2	1	0	4	-0.403
Netherlands	3	1	2	0	2	-1.352
Namibia	3	0	3	0	0	-2.443

GROUP B

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Sri Lanka (Q)	3	3	0	0	6	2.462
Zimbabwe (Q)	3	2	0	1	5	1.984
Ireland	4	1	2	1	3	0.150
Australia	3	1	2	0	2	0.414
Oman	3	0	3	0	0	-4.546

GROUP C

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
West Indies (Q)	3	3	0	0	6	1.820
England (Q)	4	3	1	0	6	0.201
Scotland	4	1	3	0	2	0.184
Italy	3	1	2	0	2	-0.588
Nepal	4	1	3	0	2	-1.349

GROUP D

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
South Africa (Q)	3	3	0	0	6	1.477
New Zealand (Q)	4	3	1	0	6	1.227
Afghanistan	3	1	2	0	2	-0.215
UAE	3	1	2	0	2	-0.797
Canada	3	0	3	0	0	-1.865

Q: QUALIFIED

Samra sparkles, but Kiwis stroll into the Super Eight

The opener's record century takes Canada to 173 for four; Phillips and Rachin make short work of the target despite the early dismissals of the in-form Seifert and Allen

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

He was named after former India cricketer Yuvraj Singh. Like his illustrious namesake, Canada's Yuvraj Samra has roots in Punjab and bats left-handed.

On Tuesday, the 19-year-old took those comparisons to the next level against New Zealand through some exquisite strokeplay, scoring a scintillating 110 (65b, 11x4, 6x6). His efforts powered Canada to 173 for four after opting to bat.

And when the North American outfit reduced the Kiwis to 30 for two by removing openers Tim Seifert and Finn Allen, Dilpreet Bajwa's men would have sensed something momentous.

However, as is often the case, the more established teams have greater depth and temperament to navigate tricky situations. Glenn Phillips (76 n.o., 36b, 4x4, 6x6) and Rachin Ravindra (59 n.o., 39b, 4x4, 3x6) quickly turned the tables, putting the pressure back on Canada's inexperienced attack.

Their knocks ensured the Black Caps cantered home to an eight-wicket win with 29 balls to spare in their final Group D league fixture.

Phillips was particularly severe on the spinners, bludgeoning them down the ground and into the stands with disdain to propel his side into the Super Eight stage.

Despite the result, the day belonged to Samra. The tall opener may not be big on footwork, but he more than makes up for it through great bat swing and impeccable timing.

In the final over of the PowerPlay, he went after James Neesham, pocketing 18 runs with a hat-trick of fours and a six. New Zealand's bowlers were guilty of offering width, and Samra feasted on it by hitting through the line and targeting the cover region to bring up his century off just 58 balls. He also became the youngest centurion in the T20 World Cup.

With skipper Bajwa, he added 116 for the opening wicket to lift Canada to a competitive total.

Yet, on a good batting surface, it was always going to be a tall order to keep the Kiwis at bay.

The scores: Canada 173/4 in 20 overs (Yuvraj Samra 110, Dilpreet Bajwa 36) lost to New Zealand 176/2 in 15.1 overs (Rachin Ravindra 59 n.o., Glenn Phillips 76 n.o.).
Toss: Canada; **PoM:** Phillips.

Acing the chase: Rachin and Phillips put on 146 for the unbroken third wicket. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

Samra signals his arrival on the world stage

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

Canada's teen opener Yuvraj Samra announced himself on the world stage with a record-breaking hundred against New Zealand in the T20 World Cup here on Tuesday.

Samra, named after former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh, smashed a 65-ball 110 which included half-a-dozen sixes and 11 fours.

Though the knock went in vain as the Kiwis romped home in 15.1 overs, Yuvraj showcased champion stuff against a quality attack.

In smashing the century, he became the first from an Associate nation to breach the three-figure mark in the T20 showpiece and also the youngest (19 years and 141 days) to register a ton in the World Cups (T20 and 50-over) beating the record of Ireland's Paul Stirling, who was 20 years and 196 days old when he scored a hundred against Netherlands in the 2011 ODI World Cup.

"I enjoyed the whole innings, I feel like it just went my way today and I felt great. Yes, I've been thinking about this moment every day," he told after the match.

Turning point

Samra, whose lofted shots bear an uncanny resemblance to Yuvraj's, said the innings could be a turning point in his career as he would have caught the eye of franchises across the various T20 leagues.

"I feel this innings could change my life. I can actually make a good living out of this sport," he said.

New Zealand all-rounder Glenn Phillips, who stole Samra's thunder with a 36-ball unbeaten 76 to steer the team to victory, was all praise for the latter.

"Yeah, obviously he batted unbelievably well. It's fantastic for him and he hit the ball really well today."

Simply sensational: Samra's 65-ball 110 included half-a-dozen sixes and 11 fours. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

I understand I can go through troughs: Rachin on his form

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

Rachin Ravindra wasn't in the best of form coming into the T20 World Cup and if that wasn't enough he was under the weather too. Somehow, global showpieces seem to bring out the best in him and he has probably run into form for New Zealand as the Super Eight looms.

After enjoying a wonderful run in the 2023 ODI World Cup in the sub-continent, the 26-year-old wasn't able to reproduce the magic as often as he would have liked in the shortest format but seems to be hitting the right notes again.

The elegant left-handed batter got into the groove in the company of the ultra-aggressive Glenn Phillips as the two helped New Zealand hunt down Canada's 173 rather comfortably at the MAC Stadium here on Tuesday.

Rachin. AP

Reflecting on his fluent 39-ball unbeaten 59, he said, "Yeah, it obviously means a lot. You always want to score runs as a batter in T20 but I also understand the game is quite fickle and you go through little troughs in places."

Looking ahead to the Super Eight stage, he said the conditions in Colombo would be different.

"It's still T20 cricket at the end of the day and the team does well to adapt to whatever surface is put in front of it," he said.

Airee stars as Nepal finishes on a high

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

For the fourth time in less than two weeks, a sea of red and blue descended on the Wankhede Stadium. And it turned out to be a case of fourth-time lucky for Nepal as it ended its T20 World Cup sojourn by gifting the 19,000-odd fans a much-anticipated win against Scotland.

The two Michaels – Jones and Leask – excelled with the willow and the orb, respectively, to put Scotland in the ascendancy. But a late charge in both the halves of the game meant Nepal eventually crossed the target of 171 with four balls to spare and and seven wickets in hand on Tuesday night.

Veteran all-rounder Dipendra Singh Airee (50 n.o., 23b, 4x4, 3x6) turned out to be Nepal's star. His unbroken 73-run partnership off 36 balls with left-hander Gulshan Jha took it home. When Jha walked out to bat, Nepal required 73 off 40 balls and with offie Leask having claimed all three wickets, Scotland was in charge. Airee started the onslaught by targeting Leask in the 16th over that went for 20 runs.

However, it was Jha who played the shot of the day, an inside-out lofted drive off pacer Brad Currie that sailed into the Divecha Pavilion over covers.

With the target in sight, Airee preferred to rotate strike. Nepal needed five off the final over bowled by Brad Wheal and Jha finished it off with a four through midwicket.

Had it not been for the bowlers pulling it back in the last five overs, Nepal would have been chasing a bigger target. At 131 for one in 15 overs and Jones well-set, Scotland was eyeing 200. But Sompal Kami spun a web as Nepal claimed six for 39 in the last five overs to swing the contest in its favour.

The scores:
Scotland 170/7 in 20 overs (Michael Jones 71, Sompal Kami 3/25, Nandan Yadav 2/34) lost to Nepal 171/3 in 19.2 overs (Kushal Bhurtel 43, Aasif Sheikh 33, Dipendra Singh Airee 50 n.o., Michael Leask 3/30).
Toss: Nepal; **PoM:** Airee.

Turning the tide: Airee ensured a consolation win for Nepal. PTI

India will have an eye on the Protean challenge ahead of the Dutch joust

Wednesday's fixture at the Narendra Modi Stadium offers the Men in Blue an ideal opportunity to prepare for the Super Eight match against Markram & Co. on Sunday; the host may bring in speedster Arshdeep for spinner Kuldeep

T20 WORLD CUP

Dhruva Prasad
AHMEDABAD

With a 61-run rout of archrival Pakistan securing their passage to the Super Eight stage of the T20 World Cup, the Men in Blue will look to cap off their group stage campaign on a high when they take on the Netherlands at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Wednesday.

The stakes are low, but the contest is not without context for the Indians. The Dutch challenge will be an opportunity for India to gear up for sterner tests, starting with South Africa, which it faces here on Sunday in a tantalising rematch of last edition's finalists.

Having won all three of their group stage matches here, the Proteas have a measure of the conditions, and their pace quartet has employed the slower deliveries to devastating effect. The Flying Dutchmen may not be as distinguished as their South African counterparts, but their bowling attack possesses the variety to provide India with a pertinent prelude. Logan van Beek and Bas de Leede can skillfully vary their pace, while Fred Klaassen provides the left-armer's angle.

Up and running: Kotak and Suryakumar will be eager for an Abhishek special. VIJAY SONEJI

Today's matches

South Africa vs UAE	Pakistan vs Namibia	India vs Netherlands
New Delhi, 11 a.m.	Colombo (SSC), 3 p.m.	Ahmedabad, 7 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD	HEAD-TO-HEAD	HEAD-TO-HEAD
South Africa | UAE	Played: 1	Played: 1
First Meeting	Pakistan 1 | Namibia 0	India 1 | Netherlands 0

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & JIOHOTSTAR

Need a miracle

The Dutch, who stunned South Africa and Bangladesh when they last visited these shores for the ODI World Cup in 2023, can punch above their weight on the big stage. However, they don't have fate in their hands and will need a miracle, including a Namibian upset against Pakistan, to progress further.

India will hope its generational pacesetter, Abhishek Sharma, can reclaim his destiny after registering twin ducks in his maiden T20 World Cup campaign. Inspiration is just 22 yards away for the 25-year-old, with Ishan Kishan, his opening partner, in the form of his life.

If some of Kishan's confidence can trickle down to the middle-order, it would hold India in good stead. Though skipper Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma negotiated Pakistan's spinners with due diligence on a tricky surface in Colombo, their rut against the tweakers is symptomatic of a larger middle-order malaise, which was exposed by Namibia skipper Gerhard Erasmus' spell (four for 20) recently. India's cumulative batting average (18.15) and run rate (6.94) against spin are the lowest amongst the 10 top-ranked sides in this competition.

The pitch here, though, has favoured stroke-play against the spinners and could offer the Indian middle-order a much-needed release.

The host's clinical bowling unit has little to fret over.

The conditions could prompt a rejig, with Kuldeep Yadav making way for an extra seamer in Arshdeep Singh.

Abhishek has his plans sorted: Kotak

Dhruva Prasad
AHMEDABAD

India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak threw his weight behind swashbuckling opener Abhishek Sharma, who finds himself under the cosh after failing to open his account in his first two outings in the T20 World Cup.

While there are claims about Abhishek's vulnerability on the off-side, Kotak said that getting into the minutiae with the 25-year-old would be counterproductive. "We don't overanalyse unnecessarily. Sometimes, you only start making more assumptions than the opposition. He has his plans sorted," Kotak said on Tuesday.

That Pakistan head coach Mike Hesson had been planning for three days how to dismiss Abhishek was a feather in the Indian batter's cap, according to Kotak.

"Credit to Abhishek that they are so concerned about him," he quipped.

Pakistan had prepared for the threat of Abhishek, but Ishan Kishan came out of the syllabus.

"Kishan is not someone who cares too much about things, which the T20 game requires. He is very talented because he can play all around the ground, so he is very difficult to restrict if you don't get him out," Kotak said.

SA will look to round off the league phase with perfect record

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

Three matches. Three wins. So far, so good for South Africa.

At the start of the T20 World Cup, there was consensus that Aiden Markram and Co. were in the toughest of the four groups. Placed alongside New Zealand, Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates and Canada in Group D, advancing to the Super Eight stage from this pool wasn't going to be straightforward.

It hasn't been, but the Proteas have emerged unscathed. While wins against Canada and New Zealand were emphatic, the game against Afghanistan was decided by the barest of margins as the runner-up of the previous edition scraped through after two Super Overs.

Having come through that nerve-wracking contest in Ahmedabad, South Africa shouldn't break sweat against the UAE at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Wednesday.

A win will ensure a perfect record going into the next phase.

But the Rainbow Nation, given the weight of history in ICC events, will be judged on how it fares in the latter half of this tournament.

It did shed some of that baggage last year when Tamba Bavuma's team beat Australia in the World Test Championship final at Lord's.

Will Markram's men be unfazed this time?

Albie Morkel, who is here as South Africa's specialist consultant, exuded confidence.

More pressure

"The World Cup really starts now, even though we had a tough group. Now we face India, Zimbabwe, and West Indies. There will be more pressure in these games as you move closer towards the playoffs," Albie said on Tuesday.

"But I feel we've got a very experienced group. Bowlers and batters have been exposed to that whether in the IPL or other leagues. International cricket is a little bit different, but guys can handle that pressure. I think they will thrive where there's a bit more pressure on the games. We are not too worried."

Unfazed: Albie Morkel, left, conversing with Miller and Stubbs, is confident the Proteas will acquit themselves well in the Super Eight. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Agha. AFP

Boom or bust for Pakistan as it takes on Namibia

Press Trust of India
COLOMBO

Former champion Pakistan will rely on its fragile batting order to come good after the jolt against India and seal a Super 8s spot when it faces a struggling Namibia in the final league fixture here on Wednesday.

The second spot is now up for grabs, with the United States having their nose ahead of Pakistan.

Both teams have four points each but Pakistan is behind on Net Run Rate – Pakistan has a negative NRR of -0.403, while the USA is comfortably placed at 0.788.

Pakistan's equation is simple – win against the winless Namibia and make the cut as any slip-up could leave it– relying on other permutation and combinations.

The spotlight will firmly be on its fragile batting – including stalwart Babar Azam, openers Sahibzada Farhan and Saim Ayub and its skipper Agha.

Pakistan's key worry is Afridi's inconsistency; his struggle with rhythm and control was glaring when he leaked 15 runs in the final over handing India the momentum.

Karnataka dominates on a day of slow progress

RANJI TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
LUCKNOW

Proceedings at the Ekana Cricket Stadium on Tuesday were as slow as pouring honey, but Karnataka will remain confident that it will eventually get to taste that nectar.

At stumps on day three of the Ranji Trophy semifinal here, Uttarakhand, in response to Karnataka's humungous 736 – the southern State's third-highest First Class total in history – had reached 149 for five.

In the morning, Karnataka added just 47 runs to its overnight score, with an error in judgement resulting in centurion R. Smaran being stumped (135, 216b, 12x4) off Mayank Mishra.

In response, Kunal Chandela & Co. had the option of being positive on a good batting wicket or buckle down and delay Karnataka's seemingly inevitable victory charge.

And they chose the latter, digging in for 69 overs, with No. 4 Lakshya Raichandani, a 17-year-old playing his maiden First Class season, remaining unbeaten on 52 (166b, 10x4).

Karnataka also bowled well, with pacer Vidyadhar Patil, who is developing a knack for bowing tight lines, coming up with an excellent first spell on either side of lunch (9-3-15-2).

The seasoned Prashant Chopra shuffled too far across and was trapped in front while Bhupen Lalwani was caught down the leg-side.

Paying the price: Prashant shuffled too far across and was trapped in front by Vidyadhar. R.V. MOORTHY

V. Vyshak got the just reward for keeping it wicket to wicket, disturbing Avneesh Sudha's off-stump with a delivery that moved a tad after pitching.

The prized scalp of Chandela – Uttarakhand's top-scorer this campaign with 709 runs before this fixture – was Shreyas Gopal's, with the leggie foxing the right-hander and having him edge to K.L. Rahul at first slip.

Former Karnataka spinner J. Suchith, who missed Monday's play owing to the birth of his first child, had his on-field joy curtailed when Prasidh Krishna uprooted his off-stump.

If Smaran at silly-point and Rahul at slip had not grassed tough chances off Raichandani and Saurabh Rawat (10 batting, 37b, 2x4), respectively, Karnataka's hold would have been firmer. Even then, there is little possibility of Uttarakhand getting away.

The scores: Karnataka — 1st innings: K.L. Rahul c & b Aditya 141, Mayank Agarwal c Prashant b Aditya 5, Devdutt Padikkal c Saurabh b Raichandani 232, Karun Nair c Saurabh b Abhay 60, R. Smaran st. Saurabh b Mayank 135, Shreyas Gopal b Aditya 0, Kruthik Krishna b Avneesh 60, Vidyadhar Patil c Saurabh b Aditya 54, V. Vyshak c Raichandani b Mayank 0, Shikhar Shetty b Mayank 12, Prasidh Krishna (not out) 1; Extras (b-11, lb-6, nb-6, w-8, penalty-5): 36; Total (in 194.4 overs): 736.
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-296, 3-425, 4-484, 5-485, 6-608, 7-717, 8-717, 9-734.
Uttarakhand bowling: Abhay 34-5-118-1, Janmejay 29-5-94-0, Aditya 34.4-3-154-4, Mayank 42-3-173-3, Suchith 10-0-43-0, Avneesh 35-2-107-1, Raichandani 10-1-25-1.
Uttarakhand — 1st innings: Bhupen Lalwani c Kruthik b Vidyadhar 15, Prashant Chopra lbw b Vidyadhar 5, Avneesh Sudha b Vyshak 27, Lakshya Raichandani (batting) 52, Kunal Chandela c Rahul b Shreyas 12, J. Suchith b Prasidh 21, Saurabh Rawat (batting) 10; Extras (lb-4, nb-1, w-2): 7; Total (for five wkts. in 69 overs): 149.
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-37, 3-61, 4-81, 5-124.
Karnataka bowling: Vidyadhar 13-3-26-2, Prasidh 15-2-42-1, Vyshak 13-2-30-1, Shikhar 18-9-24-0, Shreyas 10-3-23-1.

Positive vibes: Smaran has credited the dressing-room atmosphere for the team's good run. R.V. MOORTHY

It's important that all the batters fire, says Smaran

N. Sudarshan
LUCKNOW

R. Smaran has played for the Karnataka senior side for just over 16 months. But the highs he has accumulated in this short span belies the inexperience.

In Karnataka's victorious 2024-25 Vijay Hazare Trophy campaign, he scored 433 runs and came up with a match-winning century in the final against Vidarbha. In the ongoing Ranji Trophy, he has totalled 823 runs, highest for his State and third-best overall.

"I am very happy with the achievement," Smaran said on Tuesday, after scoring his fifth First Class ton (135, 216b, 12x4).

"All of us have contributed. Karun [Nair] has gotten close to 700 runs [691], Devdutt [Padikkal] has come close to 500 [532] and K.L. [Rahul] is batting really well.

"In order to win a championship, it's very important that all the batters fire. I'm glad that in each and every game, one or the other guy has been batting well. So really happy."

The century against Uttarakhand at the Ekana Cricket Stadium may have come on a batting-friendly surface, but the fact that it was the Ranji Trophy semifinal – a big occasion – wasn't lost on him.

"It's right up there, because it's a semifinal. Although we got more than 700 runs on the board, it's my first Ranji Trophy semifinal. It's right up there."

The 22-year-old also credited the dressing-room atmosphere. The present Karnataka XI has as many as five Test cricketers - Rahul, Mayank Agarwal, Karun, Padikkal and Prasidh Krishna.

"Hardly do you find a State side with four to five playing for the country. There is a lot to learn in the dressing room and a lot of talk happens on the field and also when I'm batting.

"So there are a lot of inputs from all four-five of them who have contributed a lot to the country".

Nabi and Sunil bundle Bengal out for 99; J & K inches closer

Y.B. Sarangi
KALYANI

In a sensational turn of events that included 17 dismissals in 63.2 overs, Jammu and Kashmir scripted a remarkable comeback to inch closer to victory over Bengal on the third day of Ranji Trophy semifinal at the Bengal Cricket Academy ground here on Tuesday.

As two pacers, the seasoned Mohammed Shami and the promising Auqib Nabi, went about their business in an exceptional manner for their respective teams, the day produced a mixed bag of emotions for the home fans. Beginning at 198 for five, J & K banked on its batting depth to total 302 even as Shami recorded his maiden eight-wicket haul in First Class cricket and ensured a 26-run first-innings lead for Bengal.

The host dramatically collapsed for 99 in its second essay, setting a modest 126-run target for the visitors to seal a spot in the title decider. J & K was 43 for two at stumps.

The opening session belonged to Shami, who breathed fire to take five wickets in two spells. The 35-year-old extracted movement and struck in the second over of the day, having Abid Mushtaq caught at first slip. Six overs later, he had Kanhaiya Wadhawan caught behind.

J & K's defiant lower-order batters, Nabi (42, 54b, 5x4, 1x6) and Yudhvir Singh (33, 42b, 2x4, 2x6), unleashed attractive shots in their resolute 64-run ninth-wicket stand. But a persistent Shami returned to disturb Yudhvir and Nabi's off-stump before lunch.

Architect: Nabi celebrates after removing Suraj. RITU RAJ KONWAR

However, Bengal did not capitalise on the advantage. It capitulated spectacularly to be bundled out in two-and-a-half hours in its second innings. The batters' lack of intent and application, besides poor shot selection, was baffling.

The J & K pacers stuck to their plan - bowling a good line while using the DRS effectively - to trap the top-four batters lbw. Nabi, who finished with a match haul of nine wickets, and left-arm seamer Sunil Kumar claimed four wickets apiece to orchestrate Bengal batters' humiliating procession.

The scores:
Bengal — 1st innings: 328.
Jammu & Kashmir — 1st innings: Shubham Khajuria lbw b Shami 3, Yawer Hassan lbw b Shami 2, Shubham Singh Pundir c Chatterjee b Mukesh 8, Paras Dogra c Suraj b Mukesh 58, Abdul Samad c Akash b Shami 82, Kanhaiya Wadhawan c Shakir b Shami 29, Abid Mushtaq c Chatterjee b Shami 27, Vanshaj Sharma c Anustup b Shami 3, Auqib Nabi b Shami 42, Yudhvir Singh b Shami 33, Sunil Kumar (not out) 0; Extras (b-2, lb-9, nb-3, w-1): 15; Total (in 76.1 overs): 302.
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-13, 3-13, 4-156, 5-156, 6-205, 7-222, 8-231, 9-295.
Bengal bowling: Shami 22.1-3-90-8, Mukesh 22-2-78-2, Akash 13-0-58-0, Suraj 8-1-39-0, Shahbaz 11-0-26-0.
Bengal — 2nd innings: Abhimanyu Easwaran lbw b Nabi 5, Sudip Chatterjee lbw b Nabi 0, Sudip Gharami lbw b Sunil 0, Anustup Majumdar lbw b Yudhvir 12, Suraj Jaiswal c Pundir b Nabi 14, Shahbaz Ahmed c Wadhawan b Yudhvir 24, Sumanta Gupta c Abid b Sunil 8, Shakir Habib Gandhi b Nabi 10, Akash Deep c Yudhvir b Sunil 0, Mohammed Shami c Yudhvir b Sunil 11, Mukesh Kumar (not out) 6; Extras (lb-2, nb-7) 9; Total (in 25.1 overs): 99.
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-4, 3-7, 4-19, 5-54, 6-66, 7-79, 8-79, 9-93.
Jammu & Kashmir bowling: Nabi 10-2-36-4, Sunil 9.1-1-27-4, Yudhvir 5-0-29-2, Abid 1-0-5-0.
Jammu & Kashmir — 2nd innings: Shubham Khajuria b Akash 1, Yawer Hassan c Shakir b Akash 6, Shubham Pundir (batting) 23, Vanshaj Sharma (batting) 9; Extras (lb-2, nb-2) 4; Total (for two wkts. in 13 overs): 43.
Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-12.
Bengal bowling: Shami 5-0-21-0, Akash 6-1-12-2, Mukesh 2-0-8-0.

Hardik to lead India at Hobart Pro League

Harmanpreet has pulled out due to personal reasons and goalkeeper Pawan has been replaced by Mohith; Sukhjeet out with injury

HOCKEY

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's disappointing opening home leg of the FIH Pro League has caused concern and top Hockey India officials admit the situation is far from ideal even as the team left for Hobart early morning on Monday for the next leg against Australia and Spain with a few changes.

Captain Harmanpreet Singh has pulled out due to personal reasons and Hardik Singh will lead the side that has a few changes with Pawan replaced by H.S. Mohith in goalkeeping and Sukhjeet Singh out with injury and several players included from the group that has already been training in Australia.

"There is a lot of talk around a few players being rested," HI president Dilip Tirkey was blunt in his assessment.

"But all of them, and a few others, were part of the Indian side all through last year and we still did not have any outstanding results.

Hitting reset: Hardik would be hoping to put the Indian campaign back on track. FILE PHOTO

Consistency

"Consistency is an issue, especially among the senior players.

"A lot of them have not been consistent for a while now.

"Occasional flashes of brilliance cannot replace sustained performance. We need to look at it and the players should also understand it."

Officials also confirmed that a reset might be required in terms of the working style of the team management.

"Nothing against being friendly with players but coaches need to understand that the Indian culture is different; a minimum distance between coach and players is essential to stay objective.

"Fitness is anther issue we need to look at," HI sources agreed.

The squad: **Goalkeepers**: Suraj Karkera, Mohith H.S.
Defenders: Amit Rohidas, Jarmanpreet Singh, Jugraj Singh, Sanjay, Sumit, Amandeep Lakra, Yashdeep Siwach, PC Boby.
Midfielders: Rajinder Singh, Manmeet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Hardik Singh, Rabichandra Singh, Vishnu Kant Singh, Raj Kumar Pal.
Forwards: Abhishek, Shilanand Lakra, Mandeep Singh, Araijeet Singh Hundal, Aditya Arjun Lalage, Angad Bir Singh and Maninder Singh.

India-Pakistan encounter: In defence of the 'boring' match

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

It was customary for fans of the losing team in an India-Pakistan match to console themselves with "after all it was only a game".

The winners took the result as endorsement of their politics, way of life, mutton curry and everything else. But such triumphalism was absent after India beat Pakistan by 61 runs in the World T20. The match was a damp squib, and so too was the response. The former was unfortunate, but the latter needs to be encouraged.

The damper the squib, and the less the chest-thumping and chest-beating all around, greater the possibility of a return to sanity on the cricket field.

Rarity

So we had that rarity: a 'boring' India-Pakistan match. And that is good for the game. I have believed in decades of watching cricket that there is no such thing as a boring match – there is always something new, something to learn. Sport can be a great tease, revealing its secrets only in stages.

Boredom in this case is not lack of activity, it is the presence of possibility. Boredom may be defined as "unmet arousal", which describes the match accurately after all the politics, the hype and the raised media expectations.

But if an uneventful encounter is a prelude to a reduction in the hype and the reclaiming of the spirit in which sport ought to be played, then we cannot complain.

Perhaps next time the captains might even shake hands. It was churlish again this time, with Suryakumar Yadav avoiding eye contact with Salman Agha, and players appearing to suddenly remember urgent appointments after the match.

Bonhomie

The sight – just outside the boundary ropes – of former players and rivals greeting one another with warm hugs might mean that if you look to the past, you might see the future.

Cyclical dominance

India have dominated Pakistan thoroughly in recent years. But dominance is often cyclical. There are no permanent winners or permanent losers in celebrated rivalries.

In the 1980s, Javed Miandad struck a last-ball six to win the final of a one-day tournament against India in Sharjah.

Big impact

The impact of that single shot was profound. India, World champions then, lost 40 of their next 62 ODIs against Pakistan, winning only 19. It was another decade before India won two matches in a row against Pakistan.

The World T20, dominated so far by politicians, bureaucrats and foreign ministries might, just might, refocus attention on the cricket.

And fans might give teams like Italy and Nepal their due credit. Italy won their first World Cup match, led by the now-celebrated Mosca brothers from Sydney. Justin is a physical education teacher while Anthony teaches woodwork in a juvenile detention centre. Their leg-spinner works nights in a pizzeria.

The romance of cricket is built on such warm human stories, not on co-opting it in the service of politicians.

That these players appear in a tournament alongside those who earn millions of dollars is what the World Cup is about.

T20 has always been the format where the international player connects with his inner child, striking out in palpable enjoyment and communicating that to the audience, perhaps causing viewers to remember the days when they themselves played in backyards and broke windows with a lofted drive.

Big gap

The gap in skill and temperament between the top teams and the rest is vast, but Nepal came within four runs of beating England and South Africa needed two Super Overs to beat Afghanistan. T20 is a great leveller.

Authorities must recognise this and insist on the top teams playing the others more regularly, especially at the junior and Under-19 levels.

Shifting focus

Inevitably, the focus has moved away from India-Pakistan. They might run into each other again. It might be unsporting to look forward to a boring match again, but as before that word is used here in a restricted sense.

Some of humanity's most innovative moments began with someone saying, "There must be something we can do."

Boredom is often the mother of invention, and if in that state someone in power says, "Let's not hold cricket to ransom, but play it the way it ought to be played," then an unexciting match would be a small price to pay.

Boredom can be a quiet benefactor.

THE HINDU
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For more details on age, reservation, educational qualification, experience, remuneration etc., please read the vacancy notification on CSL website www.cochinshipyard.in (Career page→CMSRU,Mumbai). Last date of receipt of online application is 25 Feb 2026.
Interview for the post is planned on 02 March 2026 (Monday) as below:
Date of Walk in Interview : 02 March 2026.
Time : 0930 Hrs to 1600 Hrs
Venue of receipt of applications : Port Management Training Centre, Bhandar Bhavan, N.V. Nakhava Marg, Mazgaon, Mumbai - 400010.
Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER (HR & LD)

GENERAL

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)
(ISO 9001:2015 AND ISO 14001:2015 CERTIFIED)
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ADDENDUM
EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION NO. CMRL/HR/CON/02/2026
The above mentioned employment notification published in leading newspapers on 11-02-2026 for various posts on contract basis only. In addition, CMRL also invites applications for the said posts from candidates on deputation basis from Indian Railways or Other Metro Organisations.
ii) Accordingly, the last date for receipt of online applications is extended upto 09-03-2026.
iii) For further details, please visit CMRL website vide URL https://chennaimetrorail.org under careers section.
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Chief General Manager (HR & Legal)
Chennai Metro Rail Ltd
DIPR/195/Display/2026

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1. AGM (Civil) on Deputation
2. AGM (Design) on Deputation
3. DGM (IT) on Deputation
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Last date of receipt of applications 10th March 2026

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A BG-BGE

SNAPSHOTS

Girona stuns Barcelona

GIRONA: Girona came from behind to beat visitors Barcelona 2-1 in LaLiga on Monday, as last season's champion failed to return to the summit, leaving Real Madrid top of the table.

The results: LaLiga: Girona 2 (Lemar 62, Beltran 87) bt Barcelona 1 (Cubarsi 59).

Serie A: Cagliari 0 lost to Lecce 2 (Gandelman 65, Ramadani 76).

Ecstatic: Beltran goes on a celebratory run after netting Girona's second. REUTERS

India-A routs Nepal, enters the semifinals

BANGKOK: Left-arm spinner Tanuja Kanwar and offie Minnu Mani combined for seven wickets as India-A made the Women's Asia Cup Rising Stars semifinals with a seven-wicket victory over Nepal on Tuesday.

While three teams finished with four points each in Group A, India-A and Pakistan-A reached the last-four stage thanks to superior Net Run Rate.

Asked to bat in its last pool match, Nepal was skittled out for 78. India-A cruised to the target with more than 12 overs to spare.

The scores: Nepal 78 in 18 overs (Tanuja Kanwar 4/12, Minnu Mani 3/8) lost to India-A 82/3 in 7.5 overs (Vrinda Dinesh 39 n.o.).

Fit-again Pratika added to Indian squad for Australia ODI series

NEW DELHI: Having recuperated from an ankle injury, batter Pratika Rawal was on Tuesday added to India women's squad for a three-match ODI series against Australia beginning February 24 in Brisbane.

The 25-year-old is already a part of the Test squad for the one-off game from March 6 in Perth.

The squad: Harmanpreet Kaur (Captain), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-Captain), Shafali Verma, Renuka Thakur, Sree Charani, Vaishnavi Sharma, Kranti Gaud, Sneh Rana, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh (WK), Uma Chetry (WK), Kashvee Gautam, Amanjot Kaur, Jemimah Rodrigues, Harleen Deol, Pratika Rawal.

Nagal advances; top seed Sweeny exits

India's top-ranked player Sumit Nagal advanced to the second round of the 2026 Delhi Open Challenger 75 on Tuesday even as top seed Australian Dane Sweeny was knocked out in the opening round in the upset of the day.

World No. 297 Nagal had an easy first set against Spain's David Jorda Sanchis before the Spaniard stepped up, the set going with serve until Nagal took the decisive break in the 11th game, serving out for a 6-3, 7-5 win. Sweeny, however, was shocked by Kazakhstan's Beibit Zhukayev 6-7(6), 6-2, 6-2.

Other important results: Rei Sakamoto (Jpn) bt Frederico Ferreira Silva (Por) 6-2, 6-2; Jay Clarke (GBr) bt Maks Kasnikowski (Pol) 7-6, 6-4; Rio Noguchi (Jpn) bt Manas Dhamne 7-5, 6-4; Alastair Gray (GBr) bt Hyeon Chung (Kor) 6-0, 7-6 (6); Petr Bar Biryukov bt Digvijaypratap Singh 6-3, 6-4; Dimitar Kuzmanov (Bul) bt Philip Sekulic (Aus) 6-4, 7-5; Ilya Ivashka bt Sanhui Shin (Kor) 6-3, 6-3; Alexandr Binda (Ita) bt Denis Yevseyev (Kaz) 6-7(7), 6-1, 6-2; Stefanos Sakellaridis (Gre) bt Manish Sureshkumar 6-4, 7-5.

Sahaja beats Back, Vaishnavi defeats Shruti

BENGALURU: India's Sahaja Yamalapalli took out Korea's Dayeon Back 6-2, 1-6, 6-2 in the first round of the KPB Trust ITF Women's Open W100 Bengaluru 2026 at the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium on Tuesday.

Vaishnavi Adkar defeated fellow wildcard Shruti Ahlawat 6-1, 7-6 in another encounter.

LIVE TELECAST

Rising Stars Asia Cup: Sony Sports Ten 1, 3 & LIV, 8 a.m. & 12.30 p.m.
Ranji Trophy: (semifinal), JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Men's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 11 a.m. 3 p.m.;
India vs Netherlands, 7 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 11.15 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Thursday)
LaLiga: FanCode, 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)
Premier League: SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 1.30 a.m. (Thursday)

Imran deserves to be treated with dignity and basic human consideration: former captains

Sports Bureau

Time to act: The international cricketing fraternity has sought adequate medical assistance for Imran, who is in prison. FILE PHOTO

The international cricketing fraternity has rallied around Imran Khan, the former Pakistan Prime Minister and cricket captain.

Through a joint-statement issued on February 17 by legends ranging from Sunil Gavaskar to Greg Chappell, World Cup-winning skippers like Kapil Dev, Clive Lloyd and Steve Waugh, and champion players like Michael Atherton and Belinda Clark, immediate and adequate medical assistance was sought for the ailing Pakistan legend, who is suffering in prison now.

The full statement issued by 14 former captains:

We, the undersigned former captains of our national cricket teams, write with deep concern regarding the reported treatment and incarceration conditions of Imran Khan, the distinguished former captain of Pakistan and a legendary figure in world cricket.

Imran Khan's contributions to the game are universally admired. As captain, he led Pakistan to their historic 1992 Cricket World Cup victory – a triumph built on skill, resilience, leadership, and sportsmanship that inspired generations across borders.

Many of us competed against him, shared the field with him, or grew up idolising his all-round brilliance, charisma, and competitive spirit. He remains one of the finest all-rounders and captains the sport has ever seen, earning respect from players, fans, and administrators alike.

Beyond cricket, Imran Khan served as Prime Minister of Pakistan, leading his nation during a challenging period. Regardless of political perspectives, he holds the honour of having been democratically elected to the highest office in his country. Recent reports concerning his health – particularly the alarming deterioration of his vision while in custody – and the conditions of his imprisonment over the past two and a half years have caused us profound concern.

As fellow cricketers who understand the values of fair play, honour, and respect that transcend the boundary rope, we believe that a person of Imran Khan's stature deserves to be treated with the dignity and basic human consideration befitting a former national leader and a global sporting icon.

We respectfully urge the Government of Pakistan to ensure that Imran Khan receives: Immediate, adequate and ongoing medical attention from qualified specialists of his choosing to address his reported health issues. Humane and dignified conditions of detention in line with international standards, including regular visits by close family members. Fair and transparent access to legal processes without undue delay or hindrance.

Cricket has long been a bridge between nations. Our shared history on the field reminds us that rivalry ends when the stumps are drawn – and respect endures. Imran Khan embodied that spirit throughout his career.

We call on authorities to honour it now by upholding the principles of decency and justice. This appeal is made in the spirit of sportsmanship and common humanity, without prejudice to any legal proceedings.

(Signed by Michael Atherton, Allan Border, Michael Brearley, Greg Chappell, Ian Chappell, Belinda Clark, Sunil Gavaskar, David Gower, Kim Hughes, Nasser Hussain, Clive Lloyd, Kapil Dev, Steve Waugh and John Wright).

BBL exploring options of hosting a few matches in India

CRICKET

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

The Big Bash League, Australia's franchise-based T20 cricket league, is exploring the possibility of hosting a few games of the 2026-27 edition in India.

Two BBL executives – Phil Rigby and Margot Harley – and Richard Ostroff, a Cricket Australia production executive, visited India to assess the feasibility of hosting a few games. The representatives visited the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium here last week and met officials of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association.

While these were preliminary meetings, *The Hindu* understands that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) had indicated to the TNCA to "slow-walk" the discussions and "not commit to anything" to the CA executives.

A possible hitch in conducting BBL matches in India will be the potential impact on the IPL, especially as the current broadcast rights cycle ends in 2027 and is up for renewal.

The Hindu understands that discussions between the Australian contingent and the TNCA hierarchy centred on the logistics of hosting games at the home of Chennai Super Kings, one of the most successful IPL franchises. According to sources, the team was keen to learn mostly about ticketing and security, among other things, involved in hosting the matches.

Currently, the BCCI does not allow any current Indian male players to figure in any of the overseas franchise-based T20 leagues. Only players who have retired from all forms of cricket in India, including the IPL, can take part.

This is the first instance of an overseas league expressing its desire to host games in India, which has the largest fan base globally. Last year, former India player R. Ashwin, who retired from international cricket in 2024 and from the IPL in 2025, signed with BBL side Sydney Thunder.

However, he had to pull out ahead of the 15th edition of the tournament after suffering a knee injury.

॥ नैनं छिन्दन्ति शस्त्राणि नैनं दहति पावकः
न चैनं क्लेदयन्त्यापो न शोषयति मारूतः ॥

Weapons can't cut the Soul, neither fire burn it, nor water wet it, nor the wind dry it.
It is eternal, all-pervading, divine, beyond the interaction of material objects.

- Bhagvad Gita, Ch 2, Text 23

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